

'Settlers buying Arab property in Hebron'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Radio reported Monday that Jewish settlers, backed with donations from abroad, were buying up Arab homes in the heart of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. The aim is to create a continuous Jewish territorial link from their neighbourhoods, through the old Casba, to the Cave of the Patriarchs, a site holy to both Jews and Muslims. Fights over access to the site have provoked frequent bloodshed. Settlers denied the report. "This has no basis," said Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron. "At this moment we are working very hard to renovate old Jewish houses built in Hebron 100 years ago," he said. Palestinian sources said they knew of no such sales. The radio report said the settlers had bought 13 houses so far, using Arab middlemen so that the owners would not know they are selling to Jews. In the past few years, the settlers have collected hundreds of thousands of dollars, mainly from wealthy Jews in the United States and France, to purchase the homes, the radio said. The report quoted unidentified settlers as saying the deals are perfectly legal and that they are waiting for the right moment to move in dozens of families.

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Rantisi urges exile to return to camp

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian expellees appealed Monday for an exile who fled their camp in South Lebanon three weeks ago to return. Spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi said the remaining 395 men, now in their seventh month at the camp where daytime temperatures soar to 40 C (104 F), resented the departure of Abdul Fatah Al Oueisi. He sneaked away leaving a note saying he would never return. "The deportees refuse such a method. Therefore we beseech Oueisi, if he is near us, to return immediately," said Dr. Rantisi, who demands Israel allow all the exiles to go home together. Mr. Oueisi, a 37-year-old history professor from Hebron in the West Bank, is believed to have left on foot for territory under Lebanese government control to the north. Dr. Rantisi said Mr. Oueisi was depressed because Israeli authorities had expelled his wife and children to Jordan.

Moroccan group denounces poll 'fraud'

PARIS (AFP) — A Moroccan human rights association, Ashdoh, Monday denounced alleged irregularities which it said had marred general elections in June 25. In a statement released here, the association said there had been many protests against fraud in different polling areas and that the authorities had reacted with repression and dozens of arrests. It also asserted that several people had been tortured at police stations. It called for a general amnesty for all political prisoners, missing persons and exiles. Opposition parties scored a convincing victory in the parliamentary elections, giving them the chance to form the next government. Results published by the Interior Ministry on June 26 showed the nationalist Istiglal and the left-wing Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) top, with 91 of the 222 seats.

Dinkins: Jerusalem as Israeli capital

TEL AVIV (AP) — New York Mayor David Dinkins arrived in Israel on Monday for a high-profile visit and declared that Jerusalem should remain Israel's "undivided capital." Mr. Dinkins is seeking reelection and is trying to win the support of New York's important Jewish constituency. Surveys show his support among Jews has eroded, in part because of criticism over his handling of the city's 1991 black-Jewish riots. Mr. Dinkins sought to remind his critics of his support for Jewish causes. "I have always supported the right of Israel to exist in secure borders, as determined by Israel, with Jerusalem as its undivided capital," Mr. Dinkins told reporters Monday after arriving at Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv.

Indian minister visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Indian Agriculture Minister Bal Ram Jakhar began a four-day visit to Israel Monday seeking to develop agricultural ties, officials said. He met his Israeli counterpart Yaacov Tzur and is scheduled to hold talks with President Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during the visit. The two countries deepen relations established in January 1992.

Ciller wins vote of confidence

ANKARA (AFP) — The new government coalition headed by Turkey's first woman prime minister, Tansu Ciller, won a vote of confidence in parliament Monday after capturing 247 of the 432 votes cast. The opposition had criticised the government's programme for being inadequate to tackle a nine-year-old Kurdish rebellion in the south and soaring inflation. Some 6,500 people have died in the Kurdish rebellion, and inflation is running at 70 per cent. Ms. Ciller's right-wing True Path Party and its coalition partner, the centre-left Social Democratic Populist Party, control 234 of the 450 seats in parliament. She was elected leader of her party last month, becoming the first woman prime minister in Turkey's 70-year history as a republic.

PLO leadership rejects U.S. draft document

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee rejected Monday a U.S. draft document aimed at bridging Palestinian-Israeli differences on Palestinian self-government in the occupied territories, and considered it unacceptable as a basis for peace negotiations, PLO officials said. PLO said that future negotiations on interim self-government must be clearly based on the original terms of reference of the U.S.-led peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991, which aims at implementing U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The Executive Committee's position was conveyed to U.S. officials Sunday evening by the Palestinian delegates who attended the PLO leadership's meetings in Tunis. A PLO official said the organisation was also sending its final position attached to a copy of the American document to heads of Arab states involved in the peace process on Monday.

The PLO stressed that its rejection to deal with the U.S. document as a basis for negotiations, also meant that it was opposed to making any amendments to it, but this official position fell short of bluntly stating the PLO's rejection so that it would not be blamed for the failure of the peace process or for the withdrawal of U.S. efforts in the process, according to Palestinian officials in Tunis.

"The consensus in the Executive Committee was to reject the document because it represented total departure from previous American positions and a flagrant violation of the original terms of reference of the peace process," said Executive Committee member Suleiman Najjib from Tunis. Palestinians and Israelis have attacked the American paper, and the U.S. warned both sides that its role could end if its assistance was not needed and that the U.S. will not impose itself in the peace process. Palestinians said they still want

the U.S. to play a role in the negotiating process, but "it has to play the role of honest broker, and not the spokesman of Israel as it did in the last document it had submitted to us."

PLO officials said that in its document, the U.S. failed to resolve the main points of contention between Israelis and Palestinians, which are the status of Jerusalem and the extent of Palestinians' jurisdiction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The document has set new basis for the peace process, based only on resolutions 242 and 338, and the letters of invitation. The wording of some parts of the document was vague and could be differently interpreted by Israelis and Palestinians. The officials added that the U.S. had departed from its commitments mentioned in the letters of assurances, which were the basic American positions that helped bring Arabs and Israelis to the

negotiating table.

"The document contradicted the U.S. letters of assurances in which the American position was clearly stated concerning Jerusalem, the political rights of the Palestinian people, the principle of land for peace and the objective of the final status negotiations," said a senior PLO official.

The U.S. document dropped any reference to the principle of land for peace, when it said "the two sides agree that the objective of the peace process is to reach a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement achieved through direct negotiations based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

In the letter of assurances presented to Palestinians on Oct. 18, 1991, the U.S. said it firmly believes that a comprehensive peace should be built on the basis of "U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace."

The document also failed to refer to Palestinians as a people and it dropped any reference to their political rights. "These were

clearly stated in the letter of assurances," the official said. He said that the U.S. document stated that the "question" of Jerusalem, along with any other issues, could be raised only once negotiations on permanent status begin.

"This means that Israel is not committed to discuss the issue of Jerusalem when permanent status negotiations start, and it opens the door for possible annexation of Jerusalem and the right to claim sovereignty over the holy city in the final stages," he said.

However, in the letter of assurances the U.S. clearly states that "we (the U.S.) do not recognise Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem or the expansion of its municipal boundaries."

Furthermore, the letter of assurances states that the U.S. firm position continues to be that Jerusalem should not be divided again and that its final status must be determined in the negotiations.

See page 10 for full text of the U.S. document

The absence of clear U.S. reiteration on its previous position regarding Jerusalem alarmed Palestinians, and they considered it a retreat from previous American positions.

"The document does not state anywhere that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and worse still, the whole document implicitly considers the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as disputed areas, not occupied lands," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Najjib said that the document "ignores Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, and it ignores the existence of U.N. resolutions affirming Israeli occupation of these territories, and calling for its withdrawal."

Therefore, it gives Israel the same right as Palestinians to claim sovereignty over the occupied territories at the end of the interim period, he said. In the letter of assurances, the U.S. said that the process they try to create provides the Palestinians with the

(Continued on page 10)

Rights group sees 'worst year in Gaza'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The 12 months since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin took power have been the "worst year in Gaza so far," leaving 122 Palestinians dead, a human rights association said Monday.

The Gaza Centre for Rights and Law noted an "unprecedented deterioration of the human rights situation in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip."

The centre, an affiliate of the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, listed a series of new repressive measures taken against the 750,000 Palestinians in Gaza including:

— "Large-scale military attacks, utilising anti-tank missiles and explosives against Palestinian homes." Some 182 families lost their homes in this way.

— "The use of undercover units to carry out the extrajudicial execution of wanted people."

— "Relaxation of open fire regulations and the increasing use of Israeli army snipers has led to killings and injuries on a level not seen since the earliest days of the intifada."

— "Reintroduction of expulsion orders. Mr. Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians in December, 167 of them from Gaza."

— "Closure of the Gaza Strip on March 29, causing 'economic devastation' by preventing thousands from working in Israel and restricting freedom of movement."

— "Last week the U.S. rights group Middle East Watch said that Israeli special forces operate with a 'licence to kill' in the occupied territories, shooting on sight and shooting to kill."

Israeli woman stabbed

Unknown assailants stabbed and wounded an Israeli woman in an upscale neighbourhood of Jewish West Jerusalem on Monday, police and witnesses said.

It was the second politically motivated attack against Jews in Jerusalem in five days.

Doctors said Batseva Hillel, 57, was stabbed five times in the back and had a punctured lung. She was in moderate to serious condition.

The stabbing took place in the neighbourhood of Yemin Moshe, near a windmill which is a Jerusalem landmark.

Witnesses said they saw two Arabs running from the area.

Police said they detained 24 suspects, but had released 20 of them by evening and an intensive search was still underway.

Baghdad remains defiant as U.N. team leaves

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq Monday vowed not to "bow to blackmail" in its latest dispute with the United Nations, as U.N. experts left the country after failing to set up surveillance cameras at missile test sites.

But despite the threat of a new confrontation with the West, Baghdad predicted "positive developments" in upcoming negotiations with the United Nations on a limited resumption of Iraqi oil sales.

A three-member team of ballistic missile experts led by Russian inspector Nikita Smidovich left Iraq after failing during a month-long mission to install cameras at the Yawm Al Azim and Rafah sites south of Baghdad.

After a final meeting with Iraqi officials, Mr. Smidovich said he was "very disappointed" with Baghdad's position. He left Iraq

for New York via Cyprus.

But the team, which had arrived in Iraq on June 4, left behind the four cameras in case they return.

Mr. Smidovich also advised Iraq to "assess the decision of the Security Council," which last month warned Iraq of "serious consequences" if it ignored the team's request to set up the cameras.

Iraqi officials say they will permit the cameras only if the Security Council agrees to remove or at least ease the trade sanctions after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Iraq's refusal to permit the cameras was "a bad sign."

Prices rose and the Iraqi dinar tumbled on the black market in reaction to the U.N. decision to pull Mr. Smidovich out.

The dinar had risen and prices

fallen on the prospects that talks between Iraq and the United Nations in New York on Wednesday would pave the way for Iraq to resume some oil sales. (See page 10).

But on Monday the dollar sold for about 75 dinars, compared with about 60 on Saturday and Sunday.

The Baghdad newspaper Babel, which is published by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said Mr. Smidovich's departure meant that the United Nations was "back to dirty methods."

"Today we witness another ring in the chain of (conspiracy) through the departure of the team of international experts," it said. "The team is mined with American elements, often waiting to accomplish with precision an order from Washington."

Babel said Iraq would not be cowed by threats. "It has stressed

Top EC official reaffirms strong European role in multilateral talks

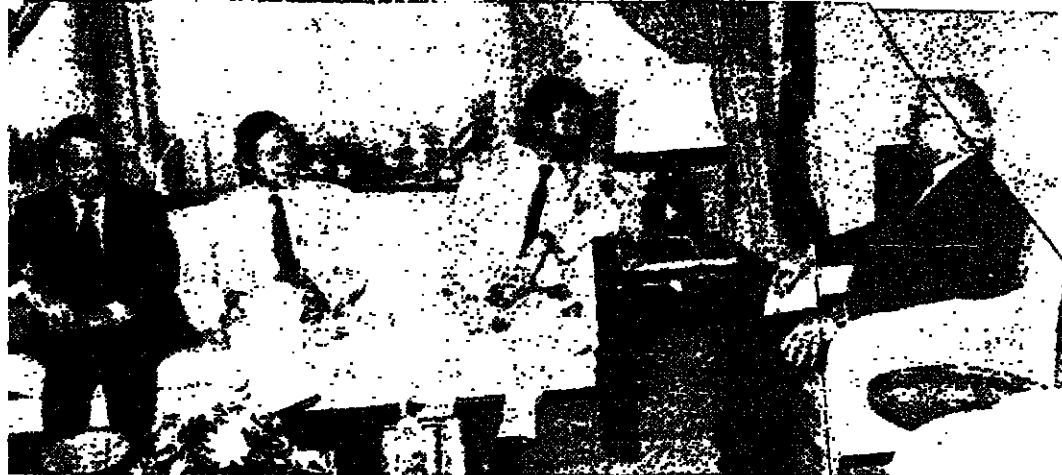
By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Europe remains committed to supporting the Middle East peace process and will continue to contribute to its success through the multilateral phase of the 20-month-process where regional issues are tackled, a senior European Community (EC) official said Monday.

But, said Manuel Marin, vice-president of the European Commission and commissioner for development cooperation, the actual implementation of projects identified in the multilateral phase have to await progress on the bilateral phase, where Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians are engaged in separate negotiations.

"The bilateral and multilateral talks go together," Mr. Marin told a press conference after talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and several other ministers. "We cannot work on the multilateral level before the players (in the peace process) reach agreements on their differences," said Mr. Marin, a Spaniard.

The EC chairs the working group of regional economic cooperation — one of five panels. The other four are discussing broader issues such as water, refugees, arms control and the environment with international partici-



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Manuel Marin (third from right), vice-president of the European Commission, in a meeting attended by Eberhard Rhein (second from left), director of the commission's economic relations with Mediterranean countries, and Renato Batti, the European Commission delegate in Jordan (Petra photo).

ating the importance of Jerusalem in any Middle East peace settlement.

Jerusalem has emerged as a key stumbling block in the peace talks (see separate story).

The King reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to democracy and the Kingdom's push for enhanced participation in decision-making and said that Jordan had set an example for others in the region.

Asked at the press conference what his impression was after his talks here, Mr. Marin said: "I share the view of my interlo-

cutors here that the peace talks are at a crucial stage and the momentum should be maintained."

"The European Commission, as a European institution, does not have much (political) power, but we have a lot of influence," he said, adding that the community would try to use this power to retain the momentum in the peace process.

But "there is no miraculous formula to achieve peace in the

(Continued on page 10)

Israel, Palestinians are closer to accord — Peres

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel was closer to an agreement with the Palestinians than most people think as he started a visit Monday to Egypt to break a deadlock in peace talks.

During 10 rounds of Arab-Israeli negotiations since the Middle East talks were launched in October 1991 "we have discussed a great deal of potential and also a great deal of misunderstandings," Mr. Peres said.

The more progress, the more we discover the points of agreement as well as the points of disagreement," he said at the start of the two-day visit.

The negotiations, he added, are "not a lost cause."

"I personally believe that we are nearer to... an agreement with the Palestinians than most people think," the Israeli foreign minister said.

The more we progress, the more we discover the points of agreement as well as the points of disagreement," he said. "The fact is that all parties, without exception, have expressed the will to continue negotiations."

Mr. Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa agreed that American proposals for breaking the deadlock in the peace process could serve as the bases for further negotiations.

But both suggested at a news conference that perhaps they need modifications. "We feel the American draft is not a holy script," Mr. Peres told reporters meeting for more than two hours with Mr. Musa. He

said the American document could serve as "the base for the continuation" of the peace talks.

Mr. Musa agreed, describing the American document as "a good basis for continuation of negotiations, to build on."

Mr. Peres said he was pleased at Mr. Musa's attitude; before their meeting Israel's army radio said Mr. Peres was expected to press the Egyptian foreign minister to convince the Palestinians to accept the American proposals.

The two leaders met a day after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned that the United States could end its active role in the Middle East talks if the parties were not committed to peace (Syria assails U.S. comment, page 2).

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was furious with the United States because he said it had made changes in the draft under pressure from the Palestinians. "Talks with Syria are equally deadlocked."

Mr. Peres began his visit with a one-hour meeting with Osama al Baz, chief political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He is to meet with Mr. Mubarak on Tuesday in Alexandria.

Dr. Baz later met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at Cairo airport. Mr. Arafat made the stop en route from Tunis to Amman.

According to Egyptian officials, Cairo will submit ideas to overcome the obstacles to a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, notably the thorny Jerusalem issue.

Lawyers challenge Egypt's extradition bid

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Lawyers for militant preacher Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman Monday challenged Egypt's request to extradite the blind cleric, saying the court order on which it was based was unlawful.

Lawyer Abdul Halim Mandour told Reuters the request was "null and void" because Judge Ahmad Ashmawi ordered the cleric's arrest despite a defence petition asking that he be released because of his animosity to Islamists.

He said that he had formally issued an appeal against the arrest ruling.

Egypt asked for Sheikh Abdul Rahman's extradition from the United States Sunday, one day after Judge Ashmawi ordered his arrest on charges of attempted murder. Sheikh Abdul Rahman has been in the United States since 1990.

The extradition request made by the Egyptian authorities is illegal because the judge who has ordered the arrest of Sheikh Omar had no right to look into

the case because a petition was presented against him at the beginning of the hearings," Mr. Mandour said.

An alleged former supporter said Sheikh Abdul Rahman was behind a plot to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Imad Salem, a former army officer and member of the militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, told the government daily Al Ahram that Mr. Mubarak was to have been killed during his last visit to the United States in April.

After two years as a Gamaa member, Mr. Salem said he switched sides and informed the U.S. and Egyptian intelligence services when he found out that Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his supporters were plotting against the president's life.

Followers of Sheikh Abdul Rahman have been arrested for the World Trade Centre bombing in February as well as a conspiracy against a string of other targets in New York, but no such charges have been brought against the cleric.

U.N. dismisses Aided clanswomen over security

MOGADISHU (Agencies) —

The United Nations fired three American-based Somali women translators from warlord Mohamud Farah Aided's clan Monday, accusing them of security lapses which put U.S. soldiers' lives at risk.

"This is racism to single out the Haber Gedir clan," said Eban Nur, one of three translators fired for insulting the U.N.'s operation in Somalia and begin a security risk.

The three women — two of whom are American citizens and one a U.S. resident — received a dismissal letter saying the U.N. believed they could endanger lives of American military units to which they were attached.

"I realise you may see this dismissal as unfair, but am convinced of a risk to the lives of U.S. soldiers," the letter states.

"This is a matter of conduct and misconduct. It has to do with security concerns," U.N. spokesman Major David Stockwell told reporters.

He denied Gen. Aided's clan was being singled out. He said the same company employed 118 Somalis of which seven had been sacked and five "happened to be Haber Gedir."

"But there are at least four Haber Gedir (still employed) and they are doing well," he said. All three of the women sacked

acted as translators for the U.S. 1st Battalion, part of Washington's 4,400-strong contingent in the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). They are accused of publicly insulting the operation using profane language.

One is accused of attending a rally by supporters of warlord Aided, whose arrest is sought by the United Nations over the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

Gen. Aided vanished after the arrest warrant was issued and his supporters have held frequent anti-U.N. rallies and demonstrations and attacked U.N. patrols, killing five peacekeepers in the past seven days.

Italy Monday paid final tribute to three peacekeepers killed in Somalia as politicians and newspapers bricked government efforts to win a place in the U.N. military command.

Mourners including president Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and military leaders packed a Rome basilica for a solemn state funeral service as a respectful crowd of thousands followed the ceremony from a square outside.

Senate President Giovanni Spadolini, a former defence minister, and newspaper editorials supported the government's efforts to win a seat on the U.N. military command in Somalia.

Syria expresses surprise at Christopher's remarks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said Monday the United States would lose credibility in the Middle East if it abandoned its brokering of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The official daily Tishreen, which reflects government thinking, said Arab parties to the talks were surprised by the veiled warning from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in an NBC television interview Sunday.

Mr. Christopher said the United States would not try to impose a Middle East peace on parties reluctant to reach a settlement.

"It is a bit of a warning because there are many things that President (Bill) Clinton has to do and that I have to do. We want to be helpful if we can, but they have to want peace, as well," he said.

Tishreen, although criticising the U.S. role in the 20-month-old negotiations, asked: "Would the United States have any credibility in the Middle East if it relieved itself of its commitments and initiative?"

It said the United States was not pressing Israel hard enough to trade the Israeli-occupied Arab land for peace and also attacked a U.S. draft proposal aimed at bridging differences between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

"Christopher came up with papers adopting most Israeli stands and abandoning the future of Jerusalem," Tishreen said.

The U.S. document delays any discussion of Jerusalem until the start of the final phase of talks and does not define the territory to be put under future Palestinian rule in an interim autonomy arrangement.

Damascus Radio accused the United States of having "continued to be biased towards Israel and of ignoring time and again Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied lands."

The latest round of peace talks ended in Washington last week with Israel and Syria still at an impasse over the future of the Golan Heights; Israel and the

Palestinians failing to agree on Palestinian self-rule, and other problems in Israel's sessions with Lebanon and Jordan.

Damascus Radio criticised the latest U.S. document on the talks, which was an attempt to close the gap between the Palestinians and Israel.

The Palestinians announced that they could not adopt the U.S. position, which failed to refer to the status of East Jerusalem or to define the territory that would fall under Palestinian control under autonomy.

The Israelis, who also criticised the document, refused to discuss the future of East Jerusalem.

The radio said Israel also insisted on having advanced security agreements "as though the Arabs had come to Washington to ensure security for Israel and not to regain their usurped rights."

"There will be no peace without the return of all occupied lands," the radio said. "And no one can deny the rights of the Arabs to restore their lands."

Mr. Christopher said Sunday that the U.S. government had plenty to keep it busy and would not try to force a Middle East peace if Israel and the Arabs could not make progress on their own.

"If we find the parties don't want our assistance — they really don't want us to play this role — of course, we will not impose ourselves," Mr. Christopher said.

He added that he believed the parties still want the United States to play the role of "honest broker" in the talks.

"At the present time, I think they continue to want us to play this role," he said. "They've not invited us out."

Mr. Christopher reiterated he was not surprised that both the Israelis and the Palestinians did not immediately accept the U.S. draft proposal issued last week.

"It's part of the process, part of the dialogue," he said. "I wouldn't predict success of any kind but we're going to stay with it, we're going to see if they can't

be brought into some kind of agreement."

Palestinian peace negotiators told Mr. Christopher Saturday the 20-month-old Middle East peace process was endangered and urged Washington to prevent its collapse.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Sunday attacked the U.S. draft proposal and accused Washington of bowing to Palestinian demands by seeking amendments to the draft paper.

France urges direct talks

France has repeatedly advised Israel to open direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe was quoted as saying in Saudi Arabia.

"We have sent several messages (to Israel) stressing the need for a final resolution (to the Middle East crisis)... and (on) the nature of ties with the PLO. There must be direct contact with it," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted Mr. Juppe as telling a news conference in Jeddah Sunday (see separate story).

France's outgoing Socialist government, defeated in general elections in March, welcomed an Israeli decision in January to legalise private contacts with the PLO.

The Israeli government still refuses to talk directly with the PLO but it is negotiating with the PLO-backed Palestinian team from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Juppe praised the government of Mr. Rabin, which has been in power for a year, saying it had done much towards bringing about peace in the region.

"Rabin has done in the past few months more than previous governments had done in years," Mr. Juppe was quoted as saying.

Mr. Juppe also announced that French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, now on a tour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, would make his first official visit to Saudi Arabia in late July.



REBUILDING: A government building Monday removes the ruins of Beirut Sports City following a cabinet decision to rebuild the facility, which was destroyed in an Israeli air raid during the Jewish state's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Now that peace has returned to Lebanon, attempts are being made to rebuild Beirut, which also bore the brunt of a 15-year civil war (AFP photo)

Fahd said urging France to end Bosnia embargo

JEDDAH (AP) — In a meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe Sunday, King Fahd pressed for an end to the Bosnian arms embargo to enable Muslims there to arm themselves against their attackers, diplomats said.

The Saudi monarch told Mr. Juppe the kingdom wanted to see an end to the "catastrophe" faced by the Muslims in the Bosnian civil war, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

The demand to end the arms embargo, pressed by the Muslim World, is a point of friction in an otherwise warm relationship between Saudi Arabia and France.

France opposes lifting the embargo and Mr. Juppe told reporters that lifting the arms ban "could help expand the circle of the ongoing war."

The diplomats said King Fahd also urged the European Community (EC) to play "an effective role" in pushing the Arab-Israeli peace talks forward.

The latest session of the talks ended last week in Washington. Mr. Juppe expressed his country's readiness to help, and said the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Paris held "encouraging" portents for the talks, according to the diplomats.

Mr. Juppe's talks with the Saudi leadership, which included meetings with Defence Minister Prince Sultan as well as with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, covered agreement to establish an international fund for

the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Leotard in UAE

Mr. Juppe's colleague, French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, was in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, where he said France would help preserve security in the Gulf Arab states and continue its military presence.

Mr. Leotard told a news conference his visit to the United Arab Emirates and the Kuwait were indications of his country's commitment to its responsibilities in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

"France is committed to guarantee and assist in preserving Gulf security and stability," he said.

"Our warships and air forces visits to the region shall continue. And our cooperation and joint activities shall also continue," he added.

France, along with Britain and the United States have increased their presence in the region since the 1991 Gulf war.

France is the main arms supplier to the UAE, and in February made a \$3 billion deal to supply 436 Lockheed tanks.

Mr. Leotard met with the UAE's defence minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid and the chief of staff of the armed forces Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed.

He later conferred with Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, Abu Dhabi's crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces.

Ex-Afghan defence minister meets ex-communist warlord

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud met with former pro-communist militia warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum for private talks in the presidential palace here Monday.

"We are not going to discuss any kind of alliance but the future of Afghanistan, which is a more vital question," Mr. Masoud told AFP, while waiting for Gen. Dostum.

Mr. Masoud said he was not meeting Gen. Dostum as defence minister or head of his own Shura-e-Nazar faction, "but as a simple person" only.

The visit of Gen. Dostum, a four-star general of the Army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan who flew into Kabul in a Soviet-made jet fighter Saturday from his northern Afghanistan headquarters on Mazar-e-Sharif, was officially projected in a low-key way.

"It's an ordinary thing for a general to visit the capital and pay his respects to the president," a senior government spokesman noted.

However, the fact that Mr. Masoud and Gen. Dostum between them represent a potent fighting force in Afghanistan, and that they met in the private living quarters of the presidential palace while President Burhanuddin Rabbani is in Turkey for a regional economics summit, focused attention here on the talks.

Abdul Rahman Farzan, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum's politico-military front, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, known locally as "Junbish," said Gen. Dostum was in Kabul in the role of a peace-maker.

"General Dostum and Junbish are trying to mediate between the conflicting sides," Mr. Farzan said.

He was referring to the fragile seven-week long ceasefire in Kabul, which is violated on a daily basis with rockets and artillery fire exchanged between the various factions, leaving high civilian casualties.

Mr. Masoud said he hoped the ceasefire in Kabul would be permanent, and that he was doing his best to achieve this goal. "But the ceasefire does not depend only on us, but also on the other side," he added.

Fears of new violence in Rushdie unrest town

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish authorities eased a curfew Monday in Sivas, where 36 people died in a protest against the translator of Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," but it will remain in force overnight to prevent more violence, officials said.

Authorities feared there could be another outbreak of violence which would then turn into inter-communal clashes between Sunni Muslims — who form 80 per cent of Turkey's population — and Alawites, who make up 10 per cent, according to news reports.

Hundreds of people were killed when clashes erupted between the two ethnic groups in Sivas and in the towns of Kahramanmaraş and Corum in 1978.

Authorities have decided to lift the curfew in Sivas between 5:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. Monday, according to sources in the town contacted from Ankara.

They said the town appeared to have returned to normal following Friday's violence which also left 60 people injured as a result of a fire set by Muslim fundamentalist demonstrators at the hotel where the translator was staying.

However, Sivas authorities told AFP an overnight curfew would be kept in place "for a certain time" until the situation was totally back in normal.

Fears of new wave of violence were fuelled by nationwide demonstrations Sunday, including in Sivas, where protesters came from the Alevi community, and marched in defiance of the curfew.

The demonstrators in Sivas, who marched peacefully, accused police of having failed to intervene in time on Friday.

Government ministers and local authorities however saw the protests as spontaneous and not a quarrel between Muslim communities.

The authorities noted that members of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite sect Azzamendi based in the eastern town of Erzurum also joined in the demonstrations.

Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu told journalists 35 people had been arrested in connection with the fire and 10,000-strong demonstration at the hotel where author and translator Aziz Nesin was staying.

Mr. Nesin, 78, translated Mr. Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" into Turkish.

Muslims in many parts of the world consider the novel blasphemous and Mr. Rushdie has lived in hiding for the past four and a half years after Iranian spiritual authorities said he should be killed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian minor jailed for 20 years

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian minor has been jailed for 20 years for stabbing an Israeli and several arson attacks in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Jerusalem district court passed sentence Sunday on the young man, who was not named, for stabbing an Israeli in the back last September, setting fire to a Jewish religious school in October, burning down a Jewish shop in March 1992 and torching several cars. "We have before us an accused who committed acts of sabotage and destruction constantly and continuously," Judge Yaakov Bazak found. "It is therefore appropriate to punish him with all the severity of the law, despite his youth." He pleaded guilty.

Families want news on missing Iranians

NICOSIA (R) — The families of four Iranians missing in Lebanon since 1982 on Sunday attacked the Tehran government for failing to reveal any news on their fate. The release of the four had been linked by pro-Iranian kidnap groups in Lebanon to the fate of Western hostages, who have now been all set free. "After 11 years, the ministry of foreign affairs should break the silence regarding the fate of these four individuals," said an appeal by their families. "Do brothers (at the Foreign Ministry) have any convincing response with respect to their silence on the matter?" The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the appeal as saying, "Despite the common wisdom, the case of the hostages in Lebanon was not closed with the release of the Western hostages. The emphasis on the unilateral release of the Western hostages was tantamount to ignoring the rights of all the hostages," the appeal said. Three Iranian diplomats, Ahmad Motavassili, Mohsen Mousavi, Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, and IRNA photographer Kazem Akhavan Aftab, disappeared while driving through Christian-held areas of Lebanon during Israel's 1982 invasion of the country. Nothing has been heard about them since and security officials in Lebanon say the four have been killed but there has been no official announcement on their fate.

Two Palestinians found hanged in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Two Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel were found hanged Sunday in separate locations in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Kamel Rizk Al Bayouh, 34, was found hanging from a tree near his home in the town of Khan Yunes, and Khalil Taher Matar, 30, was found dead in Gaza City. Their bodies showed signs of torture, the sources said. Israeli authorities plan an autopsy at a forensic centre near Tel Aviv, Israeli military sources said.

Presidents of regional pact to meet in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — The presidents of 10 Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) nations will meet in Istanbul on Tuesday to expand trade links in a huge region stretching from Europe to China along the ancient Silk Road. The pact includes Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The region has a population of 300 million and is viewed as an enormous potential market for western goods and services. "We should not be interpreted as indulging in fantasies, but rather as pioneers for the creation of a new rising economic region," Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Monday. He told a meeting of ECO foreign ministers that the pact should emphasise cooperation in transport, communications and trade. "These are areas that are likely to spearhead the cooperation and the development within the region, as they will serve as connecting channels among member states," Mr. Cetin said. He said the regional cooperation would help six landlocked former Soviet Central Asian republics that are members to break out of their economic isolation.

Israeli minister heads for Turkey to encourage visits

TEL AVIV (AP) — Minister of Tourism Uzi Baram left for Turkey Monday to examine security arrangements for Israeli tourists and encourage Muslim visits to the Holy Land. Israeli tourists have made Turkey one of their most popular destinations, and Mr. Baram plans to meet with his Turkish counterpart Abdullahi Ates and tourism officials during his three-day visit. Mr. Baram will also visit the troubled Anatolia province, which has been rocked by Muslim fundamentalist violence.

Israeli truckers protest U.N. shipping inspection

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli truckers chose U.S. independence day to protest outside the home of the U.S. ambassador against inspection of Israeli ships as part of the United Nations embargo against Iraq. Israel Radio reported. It said drivers from the southern port city of Eilat parked 14 trucks outside Ambassador William Brown's residence in a Tel Aviv suburb Sunday in an attempt to disrupt July 4 festivities there. Police ordered the trucks to move on and briefly detained nine drivers. Israel's leading shipping company, Zim, says U.N. inspections aimed at intercepting arms or other embargoed goods bound for Iraq via the Jordanian port of Aqaba have cost the company more than \$1 million a year in delays and rerouting. Israel complained to Washington last month that subjecting its shipping to inspection was absurd. Iraq has been formally at war with Israel since 1948.

Guerrillas attack Israel's allies

MARIJAYOUN (R) — Guerrillas attacked Israel's militia allies in South Lebanon Monday with rockets and machineguns, triggering retaliatory shelling, security sources said. They said guerrilla "Jed" machineguns and anti-tank rockets at a South Lebanon Army (SLA) post in Toumat Niba outside Israel's self-styled "security zone" but in territory under Israeli control. SLA gunners lobbed artillery shells into guerrilla-held areas outside the buffer zone, extending 15 kilometres into Lebanon. There were no reports of casualties in the exchanges. The sources said a Katyusha rocket fired from outside the zone late on Sunday slammed into the village of Rmeish, three kilometres north of the border with Israel. SLA militiamen on Sunday found and detonated two roadside bombs apparently planted by guerrillas in the "security zone." Some 1,000 Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA hold the zone, set up in 1985 to curb guerrilla raids on northern Israel.

Harare, Cairo in war of words

HARARE (AFP) — Zimbabwe has made an official protest over what it sees as a slur by an Egyptian newspaper in an ongoing war of words between the two countries, which has included the swapping of racial insults.

Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira made the protest to his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa after a leading Egyptian newspaper said "Zimbabwians were not capable of thinking," Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, The Herald, reported Monday on its front page.

This aspersion followed two previous insults in the Egyptian media in which Zimbabwians were referred to as "black slaves" whose athletes ate monkeys, The Herald said.

The latest row coincided with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's visit to Cairo for the Organisation of African Unity summit last week.

The Egyptian Gazette, an English-language daily, took Zimbabwe to task for accepting International Monetary Fund "instructions and recipes with closed eyes."

Zimbabwe's economic structural adjustment programme had led to spiralling inflation, high borrowing and the devaluation of its currency, the paper said.

In contrast, "the Egyptian government was prudent enough to apply the reforms gradually," leading to a stable currency, low interest rates and booming business, the paper said.

"This marks the difference between those who think and others who just obey and follow," it concluded.

When Mr. Shamuyarira complained he received "a flimsy apology," The Herald said, and the Egyptian Gazette regretted what it called "a slip of the pen." The Herald then proceeded to use figures showing that Egypt's

external debt of \$40 billion represented 126 per cent of the country's gross national product (GNP), while Zimbabwe's \$3.2 billion debt was just 54.1 per cent of its GNP.

The "black slaves" row was sparked by a World Cup qualifying football match between the two countries in April when an Egyptian win was annulled after Zimbabwian players were stoned by partisan spectators in Cairo.

An Egyptian magazine said it was "clear that the referee was sympathising with his black tribesmen," going on to say "they haven't forgotten that they are slaves, and naturally there is a great difference between the masters and their slaves."

This led to The Herald publishing letters accusing Egyptians of being "poor in intellect" and having "achieved nothing close to what a real white man has achieved."

U.S. lawmakers: Tragedy awaits Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — A group of U.S. legislators said Sunday the worst human tragedy this decade awaited southern Sudan if the Khartoum government and rebel factions did not settle their deep-rooted differences.

"The splintered SPLA (Sudan Peoples Liberation Army) factions need to cooperate, agree on a ceasefire, pull back from the so-called famine triangle and allow food to pass through to the starving," said Representative Harry Johnston.

"If this is not done, the case of southern Sudan will probably be

one of the greatest human tragedies this decade," Mr. Johnston told reporters in Kenya.

"In just two months, about 300,000 people could starve to their deaths," he said. "This tragedy may be worse than Somalia, we are deeply concerned."

Mr. Johnston, a Democrat of Florida and chairman of the Africa Sub-Committee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and representatives Donald Payne and Alcee Hastings spoke to reporters in Nairobi at the end of a two-day visit to Kenya and on the

eve of their visit to Sudan.

Mr. Johnston said the group had met SPLA factions and had emphasised the need for a working ceasefire. Instead of blaming each other for persistent violations.

The SPLA groups signed a ceasefire in May but have since blamed each other for frequent violations.

The U.S. delegation will meet Sudanese President Hassan Omar Al Bashir in Khartoum to plead for a change of policy in administering the people in the south.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ahmad Zaghlool 898140

Dr. Bahjat Badar 898362

Dr. Yalwa Abdul Rahim 736072

Dr. Ahmad Khamis 747684

First pharmacy 765192

Perdows pharmacy 765336

Al Asma pharmacy 671025

Nairoba pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yaacob pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Nairoba pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shagiri 246140

Alqada pharmacy 647632

Min./Max. temp. 18 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Omniscreens

18:30 Comedy Series

19:00 News in French

19:15 Ushuaia

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:30 Comedy

21:00 Local Programme

21:30 Wayne Dobson

22:00 News in English

22:20 Feature Film: "Battling for Baby"

PRAYER TIMES

03:56 Fajr

05:30 Sunrise/Duha

12:40 Dhuhar

16:28 'Asr

19:59 Maghrib

21:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terracotta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638726

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18 / 34

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussein Mahmoud 984344

Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Senators present King with differing views on need for electoral change

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Members of the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) are divided on whether the current Election Law should be changed or not.

Speaking during a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein Sunday, senators expressed conflicting views on the controversial legislation, with some arguing that the law should be changed to ensure equality among all citizens and others saying Jordanians should elect their 12th Parliament later this year under the current Election Law.

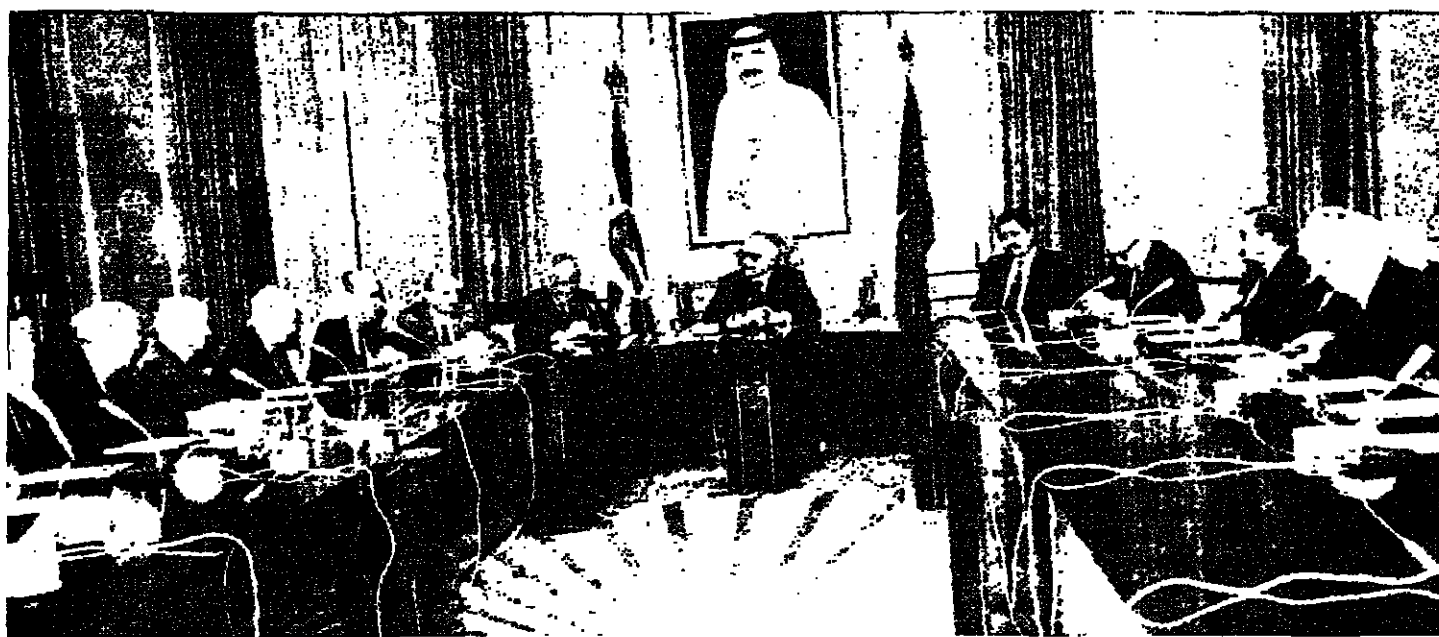
Members of the Senate voiced their views after King Hussein said that possible amendment of the law would be introduced only after the issue has been discussed with various political groups in the country. King Hussein said changes in the law "would not be endorsed except through a national dialogue similar to the dialogue which led to the formation of the National Charter."

Following are excerpts from the remarks senators made during the meeting, which took place at the Royal Court.

House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi said he supported the one-man-one-vote system, saying that its application was not an impossible thing. He said the system is applied in the United Kingdom and in Yemen.

Mr. Lawzi rejected demands by a number of political groups that Jordan withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace process. "I believe that there are higher national interests that should not be overlooked," he said. "We ought to participate in the negotiations in accordance with the Jordanian firm and principled stands."

Mr. Lawzi demanded that women be represented in both houses of Parliament, proposing that the number of women in the Senate be increased and that six



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday discusses possible amendments to the Election Law with members of the Upper House of Parliament (Petra photo)

seats be assigned for women in the Lower House. "Our society does not allow women to reach Parliament upon their own merits," he said.

Addressing the meeting, former Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Jordanians have been exercising the election process without any problems for four decades. If there are any constitutional imbalances in the Election Law, the Higher Council for the Interpretation of Laws should tackle the issue, he said.

"What concerns us in this country is national unity and cohesion among the members of the Jordanian society so that we can avoid conspiracies against the Kingdom," he said. He said if the Election Law "can lead the country towards achieving this objective, we wholeheartedly support it."

Another former prime minister, Ahmad Obeidat, said that any amendment to the present Election Law should aim at creating a future Parliament with a more comprehensive representation of the Jordanian people.

The coming Parliament, if amendments to the law are introduced, must embody and corroborate national unity and ensure that no faction can oppress another within Parliament.

Moreover, he said, any amendment should not appear as though one faction has been targeted. "One can achieve fairness to less fortunate regions and constituencies through means other than changing the Election Law," he said.

Mr. Obeidat said achieving balance between the executive and legislative authorities would ensure justice and equal opportunities for the Jordanian people.

Senator Akef Al Fayez voiced his support for the one-man-one-vote system, saying that such system can ensure constitutional

justice. He also demanded a re-examination of the present voting districts which are drawn in accordance with administrative divisions in order to reflect the geographic and social realities of the country. Mr. Fayez said that amendments must be introduced to the Election Law in order to facilitate the voting process. "It is unreasonable for voters in certain areas to vote for nine candidates while others are only allowed to vote for two candidates in another area," he said.

Senator Mohammad Rasool Al Kilani said that he was against the one-man-one-vote system, because a deputy should represent the whole electorate and not only his own constituency.

If the one-man-one-vote system was applied, Jordan would be consolidating, what he called sectarianism and racism. That, he said, could lead to other dangerous developments.

Senator Hamad Al Farhan cautioned against the one-man-one-vote system, warning that such a formula would involve complications when and if applied in Jordan. He called for the creation of a specialised committee to discuss this issue and to point out its negative and positive aspects so that a balance can be maintained among various factions.

Mr. Farhan said that the democratic experiment in Jordan will not fail if elections are held under the present law or another law, he said, lies with the domestic issues that arise from unemployment and poverty.

At present, he added, 80,000 college and school graduates are seeking jobs, and more than a million people in Jordan are clas-

sified as poor. He said that these problems could easily disturb public security unless the government take immediate steps to deal with the situation.

Mr. Farhan emphasised the need for attaining economic stability, warning that matters could run out of hand and render the country unable to contain unemployment and poverty problems.

Senator Kamal Al Shaer said that Jordan was currently going through the "most dangerous" stage in its history because it is facing a host of challenges under extremely difficult and complicated regional and international circumstances.

Dr. Shaer called on the government to introduce reforms to the present Election Law, saying that these reforms should aim at achieving two main objectives: To establish the one-man-one-

vote system in order to ensure equality among citizens, and to facilitate voters registration procedures and voting process so as to ensure the largest possible voter turnout.

Dr. Shaer proposed that the other provisions of the Election Law remain untouched especially in connection with the number of deputies assigned for every governorate because this provision guarantees equilibrium and fair representation of people in terms of geographic areas.

Expressing belief that the democratic institutions in Jordan would need a long time, to be created and become operational, Dr. Shaer said that efforts should focus on enhancing the executive authority which strives to ensure stability and provide security and continues to cater to the needs of development.

Furthermore, said Dr. Shaer, the government should dedicate efforts towards reestablishing solidarity among Arab countries and unity among Arab ranks.

Senator Salem Masaadeh stressed that the present Election Law has been enjoying the support of various factions because it has been aimed at bolstering national unity and the principles of justice and equality among various regions. Should the one-man-one-vote system be applied, it would mean further dividing constituencies and complicating procedures and triggering feuds in the Jordanian society.

Senator Amer Khammash supported the one-man-one-vote idea, saying the majority of intellectuals are in favour of the proposed system.

Speaking in favour of the peace process, Senator Husni Ayyesh said the Arabs should not withdraw from the negotiations.

"The enemy wants the Arabs to withdraw (from the talks) in order to blame them for the failure of negotiations," said Mr. Ayyesh. The senator called for unity of ranks among Arab states in the face of world development.

Mr. Ayyesh called on the government to introduce a law making it compulsory for all eligible voters to vote in the coming elections.

Senator Khalaf Abu Noweir voiced support for the King's leadership and outlined the virtues of the tribal system.

The senator criticised his colleagues who, he said, consider the one-man-one-vote system as means of strengthening tribalism. "The tribal system in Jordan, is an integral part of our existence and heritage," he said.

Senator Habes Majali called for further dialogue among members of the Upper House of Parliament. He said such meetings

help the House to discuss developments.

Senator Ishaq Al Farhan proposed monthly meeting between King Hussein and the Upper House of Parliament for consultations.

Dr. Farhan said elements that enhance national unity, strengthen democracy and promote the work of institutions, should be taken into consideration when and if the Election Law is changed.

Senator Najib Isheidat said that improvement of less fortunate areas in Jordan can take place not by changing the Election Law but through social and economic development.

Senator Omar Nabulsi called for a comprehensive and legal dialogue in the course of establishing whether the one-man-one-vote system was in "harmony with democracy."

Voicing his opposition to the projected system, Mr. Nabulsi defended Jordan's democratic system, underlining the importance of cohesion within society.

Senator Amin Shuqair said that the amendment of laws is the prerogative of the Jordanian people and their leadership, and should not be undertaken impulsively.

Jordan is facing a major problem at present, namely unemployment, and should this issue remain neglected, it would result in very serious consequences.

Mr. Shuqair called for reforming the financial system with a view to achieving a strong economy capable of improving the general conditions in the country and able to deal with challenges and difficulties.

"The government should be open in its dealings with the masses so as to prevent evil elements from exploiting the general atmosphere and spread harmful rumours," he said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chairs a meeting of the organising committee for the 13 Arab Children's Congress (Petra photo)

Queen Noor chairs meeting on children's congress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chaired a meeting of the organising committee for the 13th Arab Children's Congress due to start on July 12.

During the meeting, which took place at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Queen Noor discussed with committee members the activities of the eight-day event which is annually held under the NHF umbrella to strengthen bonds of culture and understanding among all Arabs. These activities include visits to Jordan's major historical sites, museums and cultural and educational institutions.

The congress will culminate in a mini-summit conference for Arab children to exchange views on this year's theme, "Our History and Future" at the University of Jordan. Committee members discussed how to reflect this theme in the programme's activities through highlighting the centrality of such concepts as Arab contributions to world civilisation, openness to international cultures and knowledge and science as vital pre-requisites for progress.

Queen Noor also emphasised the special significance of this year's congress in light of Jordan's advancement in the socio-political fields as well as its dynamic international humanitarian efforts. She urged committee members to invite children of Bosnian families who arrived in Jordan recently to take part in

Lawzi urges more active German role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany "is fully aware" of the problems Jordan has faced in the aftermath of the Gulf war and is going ahead with plans for bolstering Jordanian-German relations, the head of a visiting four-member German parliamentary delegation said Monday.

Joachim Hoerster, who was speaking at a meeting with the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, said Germany was pursuing continued economic and technical assistance to Jordan.

Mr. Hoerster and his accompanying delegation were briefed by Mr. Lawzi on Jordan's drive to attain Arab-Israeli peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Lawzi called on Germany to shoulder its responsibility towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishing durable and just peace in the Middle East.

"Peace," he said, "can only come through respect of international legitimacy and the implementation of U.N. resolutions, especially those concerning the Palestine problem."

Referring to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Lawzi said that the developments there contradict all international rules, saying that the situation in former Yugoslavia is of concern to Europe as well as to the Arab World. He urged Germany to play a role in settling the conflict in that country.

The German delegation earlier met with members of the Lower House of Parliament and discussed with them the situation in the Middle East and means of bolstering Jordanian-German cooperation in various fields.

Seminar urges women to unify efforts in next elections

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Political activists Monday blamed women for what they described as their lack of progress in political life and urged women activists to unify their efforts in the next Parliamentary elections.

Speaking at a seminar entitled "Women and Political Action" held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), women activists criticised the women's movement in Jordan and its failure to achieve substantial progress in upgrading women's status.

Member of the Upper House of Parliament Laila Sharaf who chaired the seminar organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research and Studies Centre, called on women to take quick action to upgrade their status in the country at all levels and to abstain from blaming all of their misfortunes and lack of progress on traditions and social norms.

"We should not keep on

blaming the society though it plays a major role for (women's) present crisis; nor should we blame the man, though he has also his share in standing in the way of women's development," Mrs. Sharaf said. "We ought not distance ourselves from (our) responsibility if we really desire to get out of this deadlock."

In her speech, Mrs. Sharaf outlined the main factors of women's inability to organise themselves and indulge in political action in "the way women regard themselves."

"Women," she said, "lack belief in other women."

She said that feminist action should concentrate on raising awareness among women in the country of their rights, especially political ones.

Mrs. Sharaf called on participants at the seminar, who mainly consisted of leading women activists and representatives of women's unions, to nominate distinguished women for the coming elections, scheduled for November,

and to strongly support them with a unified women's voice.

Ayda Mutlaq, former head of the Women's Union in Jordan-Irbid branch, expressed pessimism over women's chances to achieve substantial progress and win in the coming elections. She based her hypothesis on the weakness of and splits in women's movement and on women's meagre participation in the democratic process.

Ms. Mutlaq recommended that there should be legislative procedures consistent with the national charter's principles. She also called on parties and public organisations to raise public awareness of democratic rights, especially those of equality and justice between sexes. Finally, Ms. Mutlaq appealed to the three authorities, executive, legislative and judicial, to directly intervene and appoint women, according to qualification, in the right positions — such as including

women in Jordanian delegations to different conferences and giving them ministerial positions.

Leading activist, Emilie Nafar, called on women activists to direct their efforts on three main fronts: ideological, organisational and informative. She also called for the establishment of a special ministry for women as well as a special office in all governmental institutions that is headed by women to ensure equal appointment and representation of women and men in jobs and in leading posts.

Another activist, Huda Fakhouri, a dentist, expected women not to win in any coming elections if they were not backed up socially, politically and economically.

Dr. Fakhouri said women would not be elected to Parliament because "it is unlikely that the tribe supports women; second, because the possibility that political parties nominate women is very slim and third because women ... can't meet

the expenses of their campaigns.

Dr. Fakhouri, however, proposed the introduction of a quota for women if the elections law is changed. She said the law should stipulate the representation of women at no less than 10 per cent.

"This proportional representation guarantees 10 per cent of the seats for women without depriving them of their right to the 50 per cent that (they could obtain) in the future women, Dr. Fakhouri said.

In its sessions Tuesday, the seminar will also discuss political pluralism, women movement and steps needed for the enhancement of women's situation.

Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research and Studies Centre, said the seminar is a "collective mental exercise to get acquainted with basic hindrances to women's development and ways of upgrading their status."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby girl born to Princess Zein, Majdi Al Saleh
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein Sunday gave birth to a baby girl, whom she and her husband, Majdi Al Saleh, named Jumana, according to an announcement by the Royal Court Monday. The Royal Court extended congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Royal family, and wished the newborn good health and happiness. Princess Zein and Mr. Saleh got married Aug. 3, 1989.

Abu Nuwwar receives S. Korean, Swiss envoys
AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Maan Abu Nuwwar Monday received in separate meetings South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Hahn-Choon Lee and Swiss Ambassador Gian Federico Pedotti. Dr. Abu Nuwwar and the two envoys discussed Jordan's relations with their respective countries, especially in information fields.

Youth minister visits Zarqa
ZARQA (Petra) — Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat Monday visited Zarqa governorate where he met with Governor Talaat Al Nawaiseh and was briefed by him on the governorate's needs of sports facilities. Dr. Oweidat stressed at the meeting the importance of the youth in society and underlined the need to improve the level of sports performance at the local level so as to "raise the banner of the Kingdom in the various local and international sports events." Mr. Nawaiseh affirmed the importance of supporting the sports and youth movement in the governorate through organising sports activities and supplying sports clubs with the needed expertise.

Deputies, political activists warn against 'unconstitutional' change in Election Law

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The proposed one-man-one-vote system for Parliamentary election came under fire at a public rally held at the Professional Association Complex Sunday night.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary-General Ishaq Al Farhan said Parliament must endorse any possible changes to the law.

The proposed system will have negative effects on the national unity, Dr. Farhan added.

Calling for the representation of various political groups in the coming Parliament, Dr. Farhan said that Parliamentary election should be "fair and free."

Questioning the stand of the present government vis-a-vis the coming elections, Dr. Farhan

asked: Why doesn't the government announce a date for the coming elections? The government should announce the date of the elections and end the mystery, he said. It has no excuse for not doing that, he said.

Echoing Farhan's views, deputy Salim Al Zoubi said that the one-man-one-vote system was bound to transform a deputy into a representative of one constituency. He said any changes to the law must go through the constitutional channels. He said if possible amendments to the law are considered as violations of the Constitution, they would be contested in a court of law.

"This government is solely appointed to conduct the elections and not for any other purpose, said Laith Shubeilat, another deputy who opposes the

one-man-one-vote system.

He said the present government has no right to "touch any paper that proposes a new election law."

Mr. Shubeilat called for a mass boycott of the coming elections should a new election law be imposed by the "government without acquiring appropriate constitutional backing."

These views were backed by Mazen Al Saket, a senior member of the Arab Democratic Party, who said that the imposition of the one-man-one-vote system was "bound to backfire."

Such a system, he added, would impede rather than give momentum to progress in democracy. He said that any amendment to laws should go through and be endorsed by the legislative authorities.



PRINCESS ALIA VISITS THIBAN AREA: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Monday attended a free medical examination day at Thiban area in the Madaba District. The Princess was briefed on the activities of the local charitable societies which organised the event as well as their plans to promote the status of women in the rural region and improve the condition of poor families

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian plastic artist Marwan Al Allan at the Jordanian Writers Association.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassa at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeila Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by plastic artist Abeer Al Khatib at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Foreign workers urged to obtain permits
AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Monday received a memorandum from Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi calling on employers in Jordan to quickly move to legalise the status of foreign employees working for them before Aug. 10. The memorandum said that foreign labourers should obtain a professional licence before working in any field, and should personally call at any of the employment offices of the ministry to get the needed papers and permits within the specified time framework. The memorandum also calls on the employers to give priority to Jordanians as a means to curb unemployment in the Kingdom.

Department to ensure sufficient water supplies in Mazar
KARAK (Petra) — With the objective of ensuring a continuous and organised supply of water to citizens in the southern Mazar district, near Karak, the Mazar Water Department has carried out several projects aimed at renewing and maintaining the main water pipeline networks in the district.

UJ students protest against administration

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 1,000 students Monday staged a demonstration at the University of Jordan (UJ) to protest the "manner in which the university's administration deals with the students' council" and demanded the resignation of the university's administrative body.

In front of the clock tower at the University of Jordan, more than 1,000 veiled and bearded students demonstrated against what they saw as the violation of the students' council's basic rights. The student council, which organised the event, demanded that the university allot a budget for the council;

that medicine students' issue be handled; and that the council exercise its authorities as stipulated by the law.

"He who forced you to gather here under the heat of the sun is the president of the university," screamed one of the members of the student council amid the loud applause of demonstrating students. "He (the president) has rejected (dealing with us in) democratic means and refused dialogue and our issues are being ignored." Other students also gathered to contest the demonstrators' allegations maintaining it was a ploy to improve Islamist standing at the university.

Head of the students' council Ma'an Khatib said that all

attempts to discuss their problems with the president, Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, ended in failure. He told the Jordan Times that the main problem is Dr. Gharaibeh's rejection to allocating money to the student council, thus hindering them "of carrying out their activities."

Mr. Khatib contended that tremendous effort exerted in the past four months by the council to reverse a decision requiring medical students to repeat a whole year if they failed in one subject. According to Mr. Khatib, the university's administration ignored their demands and "advised them not to interfere in academic affairs."

Fed up with corruption, Asians threaten the old order of politics

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — The collapse of the Japanese government and the prospect of the first real change in Tokyo's leadership in 38 years are symptomatic of a broader Asian uprising against corrupt politics.

In South Korea, a new president is waging a cleanup of awesome proportions. Taiwan has just enacted sweeping legislation to force officials to declare their wealth. Thailand's new government marks a striking contrast to the scandal-tainted regimes of the past.

In the Philippines, where corruption thrives at almost every level, the hunger for change was evident last year when former judge Miriam Santiago ran for president on an anti-corruption ticket. Despite having no money or organisation, she finished second in a field of seven.

Analysts are quick to cite the pitfalls of making broad conclusions about Asia's diverse publics. They also point to Italy's unfolding corruption scandal in arguing that Asia is not unique. But as democracy spreads throughout the region, so does

the freedom to complain about abuses. With the cold war over, politicians can no longer get away with branding their critics as communist agitators.

The end of the cold war is the biggest catalyst promoting change in Asia," says Robert Broadfoot, a Hong Kong consultant who recently published a detailed study of corruption in Asia.

The trend is all the more notable since, according to Taiwanese sociologist Lin Chia-Cheng, Asians "put more stress on group relations and consider it natural to dispense favours to relatives and friends. All of these give rise to corruption."

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government fell in a parliamentary no-confidence vote for failing to enact promised reforms to cut down on influence-peddling.

Since then, a wave of defections from his Liberal Democratic Party has raised at least an outside chance of sinking the long-entrenched Liberal Democrats in the July 18 elections.

Other compelling dramas are unfolding elsewhere.

Under Kim Young-Sam, South Korea's first civilian president in three decades, some 3,000 gov-

ernment officials, businessmen, military officers and politicians have been fired, reprimanded or jailed on bribery charges.

Taiwan passed a so-called "sunshine law" this month requiring all government officials and legislators from the president downward to reveal their personal wealth.

It passed despite the ruling Nationalist Party's objections, doing credit to the rapid democratisation of a country that was run by a virtual dictatorship until six years ago.

Throughout the region, cosy cartels and time-honoured kick-back systems are under siege. Satellite TV is changing the way societies view each other — and themselves.

And the economic success of east Asia has created a middle class that simply won't stand for the old ways.

"They are the ones who pay the taxes and the salaries of these people, and they want the system to be more efficient," says Professor Pasuk Phongpaichit of Thailand's Chulalongkorn University.

Hong Kong's independent commission against corruption has proved effective since it was

set up in the 1970s, and the British colony is regarded as relatively clean.

But many worry the territory could become infected with the corruption rampant in neighbouring China after it reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Chinese leaders, having seen the European communist regimes collapse in large part because they were rotten, are anxious to avoid a similar fate. A recent Communist Party circular warns: "If corruption is allowed to develop unchecked, the party will head for self-destruction."

The anti-corruption mood has its pitfalls. Many governments, having attacked abuses, must now find ways to compensate their armies of civil servants who depend on bribes to augment meager salaries.

Mr. Broadfoot was concerned about "a politics of envy," in which simply being rich is to be marked as corrupt.

"Is it corrupt to own a gold Rolex watch or drive a Mercedes?" he asked. Anti-corruption sentiment could turn against imports, "and that in turn could easily result in greater difficulty for foreign companies' access to markets."

Darjeeling in bags? inevitable horror?

By Thomas Wagner
The Associated Press

DARJEELING, India — Put Darjeeling tea in tea bags? That would be like selling champagne in plastic bottles, say tea growers.

Nevertheless, the unthinkable may be about to happen, what with worldwide recession, the collapse of the Soviet market, devastating hailstorms and ethnic violence. If that weren't bad enough, venerable tea bushes appear to be dying.

Some planters in the towering foothills of the Himalayas have come to feel that, however distasteful the idea, they have no choice but to sell at least some of their treasure in bags.

"If Darjeeling can survive, we must do something new to market our teas," said Teddy Young, the last British plantation manager.

Despite the challenges faced by the Indian tea industry, few people believe it is about to do a nose dive.

The British began growing tea in India in 1833, when the East India Company was having trouble with its tea monopoly in China. The company was trafficking opium in China, too, which so angered the Chinese that war soon broke out.

By 1860, at least 50 private companies had established tea colonies in an area of northeast India that became Assam state. At the turn of the century, India surpassed China in tea exports to become the leader in the international tea trade.

In recent years, annual exports of Indian tea have hovered near 227 million kilograms.

While Assam grows the most tea, Darjeeling, a mountainous area in the neighbouring state of

West Bengal, produces some of the world's most popular and expensive.

In 1992, one plantation set a record by selling a kilogramme of Darjeeling, for 13,001 rupees (\$520), the annual income of many middle-class families in India.

The town, atop a 1.6 kilometre-high mountain, was developed by colonialists as a summer escape from the stifling heat of Calcutta, the colonial capital and business centre.

On clear days the snow-covered peaks of Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain, are visible from the Darjeeling, which means "place of the thunderbolt."

Rows of 1-metre-tall Darjeeling tea bushes with small green leaves line the 76 plantations on the slopes. Although some still have palatial homes built in colonial times, all of the estates now rent their land from the government.

Problems for the Indian tea industry began when the Soviet Union, its biggest customer, collapsed in December 1991.

During the 1991-1992 tea season, the Soviet Union bought 181 million kilograms of Indian tea. In the next season, which ended in April, purchases by the newly independent republics fell to 72.6 million kilograms, according to the Tea Board of India.

Then, in April and May, two hail storms heavily damaged 25 plantations in Darjeeling. Hailstones the size of billiard balls pounded the estates during "first flush" the season when the best tea is harvested.

"It is definitely going to affect the quality of our Darjeeling tea in 1993," said Mr. Young, the

British estate manager, who is vice president of the Darjeeling Planters Association.

To make matters worse, the estates rely on plants that have yielded tea for more than 100 years. When they die, the plantations will have to uproot bushes on the steep slopes and plant new ones that take eight years to mature.

More disruptions may be created by a growing autonomy movement by ethnic Nepalese. In Assam state, armed militants have kidnapped plantation managers for huge ransoms.

Because of faltering markets, many plantations have begun changing the way they export their tea. Estates that once shipped all of it to auction in Calcutta in 40 kilogramme chests now export to individual customers in pouches as small as 98 grammes.

"The Darjeeling producers are changing over to direct marketing," said Ranan Dutta, secretary of the Darjeeling Planters Association. "In other words, to make more money we're cutting out the middleman."

And so to the possibility of selling lower grades of Darjeeling in tea bags.

Tea bags are anathema to those who fastidiously boil the water, pour it over loose tea in a preheated pot, cover the pot with a quilted cozy and pour the brew through silver strainers. But they might increase sales in the United States, where many people dunk bags containing blends of up to 40 teas.

Mr. Young said companies probably would blend low-grade leaves for tea bags, while maintaining the top line for traditionalists.

"With the changing conditions, we have no choice," he said.

The poor sink deeper into poverty

By Ann Mariano

AMERICANS LIVING in poverty are poorer than they were 20 years ago and their numbers have increased, housing researchers said at a conference in Washington two weeks ago. In many cases, they said, they don't know why this has happened.

"The greatest deterioration occurred in large cities in the Midwest, especially in Detroit, where 40 per cent of the city's census tracts have been designated as 'extreme poverty areas,'" said John D. Kasarda, director of the University of North Carolina's Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise.

Four of the five U.S. cities with the highest incidence of poverty in the country are located in the Midwest. In addition to Detroit, they are Chicago, Cleveland and Milwaukee. Mr. Kasarda told a conference on distressed urban neighbourhoods sponsored by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae).

The good news, Mr. Kasarda said, is that Northeastern cities, where poverty was most prevalent during the 1970s, made a "significant turn around" during the 1980s.

The concentration of poor blacks in cities is rising, Mr. Kasarda said, while such concentrations are decreasing among Hispanics and whites. Black "family fragmentation," which one researcher has called "the single greatest impediment to black economic and social progress," rose substantially during the last decade, he said, while during the same period it decreased among whites and Hispanics.

George C. Galster, of Washington Urban Institute, said he believes the nation has "made remarkably little difference in racial inequality in the last 25 years."

He also found that poor people eligible for welfare will drop out of the work force if the benefits increase, but only in white neighbourhoods. In black communities, workers did not quit their jobs when welfare benefits rose, he said.

"We need to rethink old stereotypes," Mr. Galster said. "Certain researchers focus on ghetto poverty and the idea there is something peculiar in poor black neighbourhoods."

Poverty, he said, "is race blind."

In a report on families with children, Ann B. Schnare, vice president for housing economics at the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (Freddie Mac), said some programmes are failing in a very fundamental sense. Ms. Schnare and Sandra J. Newman of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore reported that families with "the highest incomes, lowest welfare dependency rates, highest educational achievement, fewest children and smallest concentration of female heads" are most likely to end up in the better housing located in better neighbourhoods. The poorest families, on the other hand, "often are channelled into the worst neighbourhoods," where they live in public housing or, in some cases, in subsidised private housing — The Washington Post.

French Socialists contemplate long haul to revival

By Paul Taylor

PARIS — Three months after their crushing general election defeat, France's jaded and faction-ridden Socialist Party holds a soul-searching conference this weekend.

Party leader Michel Rocard, who seized control in the wake of the March election debacle, has billed the three-day Lyon meeting as the start of a Socialist comeback.

About 2,600 members and sympathisers will reflect on the party's decade in power and put forward policies to be turned into a new programme at a second conference in October.

Party officials and political analysts say the road to revival will be long and difficult, taking perhaps beyond the year 2000, with success by no means assured.

Although the builder of the modern Socialist Party, Francois Mitterrand, is still head of state, the Socialists have lost virtually all their national and local power bases and seem increasingly likely to lose the presidency after 1995. Mr. Mitterrand, 76, is reduced to serving out his remaining two years largely as a figurehead, "co-habiting" with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's popular conservative government which enjoys a four-fifths parliamentary majority.

He is powerless to prevent the government privatising the banks, insurance companies and

industries which the Socialists nationalised in 1981-82.

Protests about layoffs, payroll tax cuts for employers, handouts to private education or public spending cuts from the 54 surviving Socialist members of parliament are met with accusations of Socialist mismanagement.

The conference will be a first test of whether 62-year-old Rocard, who ousted Mr. Mitterrand protegee Laurent Fabius amid charges of betrayal in April, can unite a movement riven by personal rivalries and haunted by its own failures in power.

Mr. Rocard has put his own presidential bid on hold while he tries to revamp the party. Aides acknowledge the chances of any Socialist candidate — be it Mr. Rocard or European Commission President Jacques Delors — winning in 1995 appear slim.

To avoid the personal feuds that have dogged the Socialists since a disastrous Rennes congress in 1990, party leaders are emphasising instead the search for forward-looking policies.

Ideas include shorter working hours, job sharing, efforts to promote labour-intensive service industries and better training. "We have to invent a new response by the Socialist left to the new crisis of capitalism," said Henri Weber, editor of the party magazine Vendred.

The French Socialists are not alone in their dilemma.

Social Democratic parties are in crisis throughout Western

Europe, disoriented by the collapse of communism, strains on the welfare state, a decline in trade unionism, competition for young voters from ecology parties and an economic trend towards deregulation and privatisation.

In Britain, the Labour Party has been out of power since 1979, losing its fourth successive general election last year.

The German Social Democratic Party has been in opposition in Bonn since 1982, although it wields substantial regional power in state governments.

Italy's Socialist Party, always the least ideological, has been shattered by corruption scandals. The Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, also tainted by scandal, lost its majority in elections this month but clung to power largely because of the popularity of its leader, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

In France, the Socialists face a combined problem of power fatigue, personality clashes, corruption scandals and rivalry from ecologists and others in an increasingly crowded left-wing landscape.

In February, Mr. Rocard called for a "big bang" to build a new left-wing movement grouping Socialists, Ecologists, reform communists and progressive centrists. But so far the French left has fallen further apart rather than coming together.

The Socialist movement founded by Jean Jaures has long lived in a cycle of rise, fall, fragmenta-

tion and reformation. It was reformed in 1921, 1945 and again by Mr. Mitterrand in 1971.

It gradually abandoned the Marxist-inspired ideas of nationalisation and worker self-management in favour of more Orthodox mixed-economy policies after coming to power in 1981.

It failed to do better than conservative governments elsewhere in creating jobs and fighting unemployment, which reached a symbolic three million on the day outgoing Socialist Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy handed over to Mr. Balladur.

Mr. Berégovoy's May Day suicide, believed to have been induced by depression over being blamed for unemployment and the budget deficit as well as criticism of a loan he took from a financier, symbolised the Socialists' fall from grace.

It will take time, some new faces and a convincing programme to overcome their unpopularity.

Some party leaders fear the conference will get bogged down in recriminations over the past.

"It is absolutely healthy for activists to pass judgement on what we did in power, as long as it does not go on for too long... We don't want a party of whingers," said former Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, president of the Socialist International.

Mr. Mauroy and many grassroots activists advocate abolishing the factions which senior politicians, nicknamed "the elephants", used to jostle for power and distribute patronage.

Former Interior Minister Paul Quilès, a Fabius aide, has made it clear his group opposes abolition of the factions now that Rocard, himself a faction-leader, is in office.

U.S. credibility with Arabs sharply deteriorated

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States may pride itself on being even-handed in dealing with both Israelis and Palestinians with its new peace proposal, but the draft has sharply eroded Washington's credibility with many Arabs.

Arab peace negotiators, who for most of the past 20 months of Middle East peace talks have urged an increased U.S. role in the negotiations, say they view the plan as another sign that Washington has become a better advocate of Israel's position than the Jewish state itself could ever be.

"Unfortunately, the examples of how that role was implemented... (this week) and as we have seen at the end of the last round, were not very encouraging," said chief Syrian negotiator Mowaffak Allaf at a joint news conference with other Arab delegation heads on Thursday.

"And we hope that this matter will be looked into very deeply in order to correct the path of this process," he said.

Chief Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi said America's standing in the eyes of Arab participants "has eroded more as we observed in the paper that was submitted to us."

Palestinians say the draft gives Israel the right to claim the lands

it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and delays raising the issue of East Jerusalem for at least three years.

They say the proposal also props up an Israeli idea for an early transfer of authority in the occupied territories to Palestinians before the two sides agree on the principles that would guide future Palestinian self-rule.

Washington insists its ideas, presented after more than 32 hours of consultations with Palestinians and Israelis, was even-handed and workable.

"The essence of being an intermediary or an honest broker is to present ideas which neither party may regard as wholly satisfactory but we hope they'll be stimulating and provocative and may help provide a middle ground," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Thursday.

Palestinians suspect that Israel's objections to the draft were aimed at selling it rather than genuine displeasure with it. Arab sources close to the negotiations said Israel raised 15 points of objections, but that none touch on issues of essence.

Israeli sources respond that they disagree with the U.S. position on two key points — Jerusalem and future Palestinian jurisdiction during the interim period of self-rule.

While the U.S. proposal has

made Arabs more suspicious of Washington, the mistrust started shortly after the new Democrat administration took office last January.

Although Arabs are reluctant to speak publicly about U.S. policy-makers, privately they claim the State Department and the White House are influenced by Washington's pro-Israel lobby.

The United States shielded Israel from possible U.N. sanctions for refusing to return more than 400 Arabs it deported to Lebanon last December, prompting Palestinians to delay the talks for more than four months.

Palestinians say they understand Washington obtained Israel's advance approval for a proposed joint statement they suggested be issued by Israeli and Palestinian peace delegates at the end of the ninth round of talks in May.

"We would have never gotten anything like this from the previous administration," a Palestinian source close to the talks said, referring to former President George Bush's Republican administration.

Said a Palestinian official: "We don't need new enemies, we already have enough. It may be better for us to negotiate with the Israelis without any outside intervention than have Washington as a 'full partner'."

Despite missile hit, U.S. shies from ousting Saddam

By Jim Wolf
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein, dead or alive? Despite the recent strike at Baghdad the Clinton administration appears reluctant to try to force his downfall.

One reason is that getting rid of Saddam Hussein, if possible, might lead to Iraq's breakup and gains by a militant Iran, branded the chief state sponsor of terrorism by Washington.

The U.S. and its allies also fear that an Iraq split into Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni Muslim states could destabilise neighbours Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey and the Gulf emirates.

As a result, the Clinton administration, like the Bush administration after the 1991 Gulf war, carefully calibrated its swipe at Saddam, whose iron fist has held Iraq together even in the face of strict ceasefire curbs on his forces.

"Getting rid of Saddam Hussein does not automatically solve the problem," Secretary of Defence Les Aspin said on Sunday after the raid. "What we're looking at is the behaviour, and that's the main test" for future policy.

By firing 23 Tomahawk cruise missiles from two navy ships hundreds of miles from Baghdad, President Bill Clinton chose one of his weakest military options to punish Saddam Hussein.

He described the strike at an intelligence complex as a "firm and commensurate" reply to a failed Iraqi plot to kill ex-President George Bush while he vi-

sited Kuwait last April.

The missiles damaged a wing of the complex at about 2 a.m. on Sunday, timed to reduce the risk even to the officials who might have masterminded a plot against Bush there.

Mr. Clinton told the American people on Saturday night that the alleged plot amounted to "an attack against our country and against all Americans." In view of such a provocation, some critics faulted him for not punching even harder.

An influential newspaper columnist, William Safire of The New York Times, called it a "pitiful whistling" and said Mr. Clinton missed a chance to teach Iraqi leaders "an unforgettable lesson."

But the missiles' message also was addressed to Iran, Sudan and other nations that the United States suspects of sponsoring what it considers terrorism, officials said.

Fears of Islamic fundamentalist violence are high after the February 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre and the arrests last week of eight Muslims accused of plotting a horrific string of assassinations and bombings in New York.

Robert Gates, Mr. Bush's last director of the CIA, said the potential breakup of Iraq had become a "front-rank issue" when both the Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south revolted in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

"At that point, the judgment was made that it probably was not in the interest of long-term stability

for Iraq to break up," he said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Gates said Washington had "timed no capacity to influence" "in a direct way" whether Saddam Hussein stayed or went. "A matter of realism" that he said both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton had to accept.

Gary Sick, a Middle East expert on the National Security Council staffs of Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, said the entire Iraqi regime was tied to Saddam Hussein's fate.

"If that man goes, the system would absolutely collapse," he said by telephone. He predicted a successor regime would also be drawn from the military but be less cohesive.

"My guess is that... they would not be able to maintain the same kind of total control that he has," Mr. Sick said. "The system would begin to break down."

Kenneth Katzman, author of "Warriors of Islam: Iran's Revolutionary Guard," said such a collapse would let the Revolutionary Guard spread their fundamentalist fervour through southern Iraq to the Saudi and Kuwaiti borders.

U.S. military officials said they entertained few hopes that Saddam Hussein would be cowed by the Tomahawk strike.

"Saddam does survive, doesn't he?" Rear Admiral Michael Cramer, director of Intelligence for the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters on Sunday. "He certainly is able to regroup on occasion."



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Economy

OECD cautions on aid to Russia, but sees progress in reforms

PARIS (AFP) — Large-scale financial aid to Russia risks being "wasted," "telling effective Russian macro-economic stabilisation and clear answers to basic political issues," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said.

But, stressing the high stakes for OECD countries, it said "failure to provide assistance could undermine the hope that present imbalances (in Russia) will be resolved in satisfactory ways."

The OECD's Economic Outlook said economic decline was continuing in Russia and the other Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former USSR, in "hyper-inflationary conditions."

In this situation, it might be "virtually impossible" to restore macro-economic stability, it said.

Against this background, the OECD said, "strict financial conditionality" for Western aid, "of the sort typically required under International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes, may not be

possible in present circumstances."

Conditions were still needed, it said. But they should link disbursements to the achievement of agreed objectives that could "relate to qualitative structural reform measures rather than quantitative macro-economic targets."

The OECD said the IMF's new Systemic Transformation Facility (STF), to be activated shortly for Russia, would allow a "more flexible" approach on conditionality.

But it remained to be seen whether it would be oriented towards macro-economic targets, or to progress in structural reform, it said.

In addition, the OECD said, if Western aid focussed heavily on Russia in an initial phase, donors should call for a commitment by Russia to provide adequate payments assistance to other NIS republics to ease the shift to world prices for Russian energy.

"Their adjustment problems

threaten to be even more difficult than those of the Russian Federation," the report said.

Making the case for effectively used aid, the report said "much (is) happening beneath the surface... that deserves support."

"Radical" reforms were under way in agriculture, with private farming expanding rapidly. In financial services, where commercial banking has become an active force, and in privatisation of small units and large enterprises.

Painting a gloomy picture of the recent economic record of Russia and the NIS, the report said their combined output fell last year by 18 per cent after a 17 per cent drop in 1991. Inflation soared from 90 per cent to 2,000 per cent.

The OECD avoided any projections of growth and other developments in these countries, but noted that their overall current account deficit could widen

from \$6.9 billion last year to \$13 billion in 1994.

It said efforts to restore stability and achieve growth were broadly impaired by large-scale economic disorganisation including the failure to replace the collapsed communist economic system by working markets.

The absence of functioning labour markets and job creation through new private enterprise created a common dilemma for all the NIS republics. They all reject mass unemployment, and their state enterprises continue to employ and pay their workers, whether they can generate revenue or not.

With this process requiring direct subsidies or bank credits, money supply has exploded, the OECD said, adding that chaotic monetary arrangements among the NIS and a sharp decline in inter-republican trade were also working against efforts to halt economic decline.

Indian companies shelve public issues as market stays downbeat

BOMBAY (AFP) — A crisis of confidence in the capital market has forced many Indian companies to put off their plans to raise public funds, scared off by poor investor response to recent public issues.

Sources in the stock broking community here said more than 300 companies had planned to tap the market between May and August but decided to wait until at least October.

Merchant banker Ajit Ambani said there was no money in the market for companies to raise now.

"During 1992-93, a number of companies offered shares to the public with fancy premiums," he said. "A lot of money was sucked up in this manner. After some time investors began to see through the game and refused to touch any new company shares."

More than 300 companies had obtained permission from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise tens of billions of rupees from investors

in June.

The largest was a 15-billion-rupee (\$500 million) rights issue by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corp., a giant financial institution.

Many others had been planning to secure the board's permission as well. "Even these companies have now postponed the idea as companies that had taken SEBI permission are not going ahead," said stock broker Mahendra Shah.

The Indian capital market has been gripped by a sense of crisis ever since a massive, \$1.3 billion bank and stock market scam came to light in April 1992, ending a share price boom.

A group of bankers and brokers siphoned off money in fraudulent securities transactions and invested in stocks, partly fuelling the unprecedented boom, which took the Bombay stock index to dizzying heights.

The surfacing of the scam wiped billions of dollars off share values.

Political turmoil following the Dec. 6 destruction of the Badli mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots and ensuing Hindu-Muslim riots further depressed the capital market.

Investors were also disappointed when the government failed to announce widely anticipated corporate tax cuts in its 1993-94 budget package.

An analysis by DSP Financial Consultants said the primary market had managed to mobilise only 35.9 billion rupees (\$1.19 billion) in the last quarter of the 1992-93 fiscal year, which ended in March, about half its target.

"More and more issues — both large and small — could not attract even the minimum subscription," the study said. "This phenomenon is evident not only in the new issues but also in rights issues."

"On a rough estimate, almost 90 per cent of the issues had to extend their closing dates," it added.

Poor investor response forced many underwriters to back out, commitments to public issues yet to hit the market. "Nobody wants to take a risk now given the mood of the market," said a leading underwriter.

Big corporations which repeatedly float, mega public issues also hurt market liquidity because they leave little for small and medium companies, underwriters say.

As new issues stay on hold, the battered secondary market continues to struggle on.

The Bombay stock index of 30 blue-chip shares is hovering around 2,200 points — less than half the dizzying 4,500 it had hit at the peak of the boom, already a distant memory.

Stock brokers said companies would be wise not to float shares until the index stabilises at around 2,500. "That seems a long way off," said broker Bipin Kapadia. "Till then we can only mark time."

French poll sees alternative economic policies

PARIS (R) — Sixty per cent of French voters think there are other ways of fighting unemployment and reviving the economy than Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's monetary policies, according to an opinion poll.

The Louis Harris poll said only 30 per cent believed recession and France's budget deficit left Mr. Balladur no alternative to his policy of cutting state deficit and maintaining a strong franc.

The survey said 61 per cent of French people were prepared to take a cut in their purchasing power in order to help fight unemployment against 37 per cent who opposed it.

More people favoured a pay cut rather than a tax increase, according to the poll.

The poll came as the three-month-old conservative government's orthodox policies faced challenges from its own supporters.

National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, a member of Mr. Balladur's own Gaullist RPR Party, has called for protectionist policies in Europe.

He said deficit-cutting and monetary stability should take second place behind the fight against unemployment which is running at 10.9 per cent.

Centrist former prime minister Raymond Barre proposed a middle road and urged Mr. Balladur to relax budget austerity and further cut the employers' payroll charges to get the economy growing again.

U.S. government sharply reduces growth expectations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. government sharply scaled back its forecast for economic growth this year in the wake of signs that the economy is not as robust as predicted.

The gross domestic product (GDP) in 1993 will probably be "slightly short" of 2.5 per cent, said Laura D'Andrea Tyson, chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers. At the start of the year, President Bill Clinton's administration forecast a 3.1 growth rate, later scaled down to 2.8 per cent.

Ms. Tyson said the new forecast would also show a higher estimated unemployment rate for this year than the current estimate of 6.9 per cent.

She said the government was drawing up a mid-year forecast to be released by the end of July and that a final forecast figure had not been fixed.

In 1992, the GDP was 2.1 per cent for the entire year, but soared in the last quarter to 4.7 per cent.

The recovery, however, ran out of steam during the first quarter of 1993 with the GDP rising only 0.7 per cent. The government was forced to revise the figure downward twice before publishing that final one.

This year's federal budget is based on a predicted 2.8 per cent growth rate. But Ms. Tyson noted that a drop in revenue due to less growth will be compensated by lower interest rates aimed at reducing the public debt.

The government reported Friday that the unemployment rate rose to 7.0 per cent in June from 6.9 per cent in May and that only 13,000 jobs had been created though experts had expected an increase of 125,000.

NAFTA uncertainty seen delaying Mexican recovery

MEXICO CITY (R) — Uncertainty over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and persistently high interest rates have led economists to scale back their expectations for a rebound in the Mexican economy during the second half of the year.

Few analysts now expect the economy to emerge from its sluggish state before the fourth quarter.

"The recovery will come later than we thought," said Jorge Medina at the brokerage house, Bursamex. But he predicts a burst of activity in the last quarter, which should contribute to a rise of 2.5 per cent in the country's 1993 gross domestic product.

In an unusual twist, the Mexican government may be more pessimistic than analysts.

Manuel Fernandez Perez, the trade ministry's director of industrial development, told reporters that he did not expect the economy to pick up until next year.

Coffee prices rise

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices rose Monday after Latin American producers decided to withhold some supplies from the world market in protest against four years of depressed prices for the commodity.

But the real effects of the plan to retain 20 per cent of exports from Oct. 1 were only likely to be seen in the long term, and for this reason commodity analysts believe the plan could succeed where other producer attempts have failed.

"Generally it sounds constructive as the producers are not trying to push the market right up," said Peter Kettle, analyst at London trade house E.D. and F. Man Coffee.

"There have been various schemes in the past but in most cases they were started when prices were much higher than current levels and were falling sharply. I think now we've seen a bottom on the market," he added.

By mid-session in London, September Robusta coffee futures were quoted at \$94.1 a tonne compared with Friday's close of \$92.8 after touching a five-week high of \$94.4 in mid-morning.

Even those traders who have admitted to scepticism in the past

Shoe industry makes great strides in N. Korea

TOKYO (R) — Whatever else North Koreans may lack in these economically straitened times, The Stalinist leadership seems bent on giving them enough shoes.

In the latest of a series of upbeat reports from the footwear front, The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported huge shoe industry successes.

KCNA quoted Jo Chol-Gyu, chief engineer of the General Bureau of Shoe Industry, as saying North Korea produced 4,566,200 more pairs of shoes in the first half of 1993 than in the corresponding period of 1992.

Mr. Jo said this was due to a production drive launched at the beginning of the year to mark the 40th anniversary of "victory in the fatherland liberation war."

North Korea's economy has been devastated by the collapse of its barter trade with the defunct Soviet Union and communist governments in eastern Europe, and the consequent necessity to pay for vital imports with scarce foreign exchange.

PAL starts cutting overseas staff

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine Airlines (PAL) announced Sunday that it was reducing or reassigning staff at its overseas offices as part of major cost-cutting measures which also include plans to reduce flights to Europe.

Measures already being undertaken are the restructuring and realignment of finance office functions, streamlining of sales personnel in PAL overseas stations and an outright manpower reduction at several regional offices, a PAL statement said.

It said airline said it has started recalling or reassigning three of its regional vice presidents from PAL's five regional offices, with the one in charge of the Middle East, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia-Australia to be transferred to Manila by the end of July.

PAL has laid off 19 finance personnel in the United States, and several station finance officers elsewhere have been transferred to Manila, it added.

The airline said it had to pursue "rigid cost reduction efforts to stay in competition with other airlines who made moves towards increasing market share in the booming Asian region."

PAL announced Saturday that its European operations suffered a \$10.2 million loss in the fiscal year ending March 1993, and that as a result, it was considering reducing operation to just one or two cities to cut station costs.

The airline currently flies three times a week to Frankfurt, London, Paris and Rome.

Open fears for profits

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The Adan Open A.G. car manufacturer will have difficulty making a profit this year, company president David Herman said after reporting that net profits fell by 81.2 per cent last year. In 1992 net profits fell by 81.2 per cent from the figure in 1991 to 202 million marks (\$120 million), the company said. Mr. Herman said that it would be "very difficult to make a profit in 1993."

Finance Director Gail Gunderson said that the company had remained "profitable during the first five months of the year" but that it would be "difficult to maintain this situation in 1993."

The company, which is wholly owned by the U.S. General Motors group, had said earlier that sales last year rose by seven per cent to about 29 billion marks. Presenting the annual results, the company said that operating profit last year had fallen by 17.4 per cent to 1.3 billion marks in 1992.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 6, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't endeavor to straighten out family affairs under current aspects — Moon square Pluto as close ties all seem irritable at present and it is very hard to know exactly what they have in mind.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An obligation in the morning keeps you from expressing a talent that you are able to put in motion when the aspects break later in the day to your benefit.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find the morning has a restriction that requires a solution before you go on to the opportunity to get into whatever will improve conditions at home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well whatever agreements you have made and carry them out in the morning while later you can discuss a project dear to your heart with a partner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind of a personal nature in the morning requires doublechecking while in the evening you can handle money matters very well.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) In the morning you feel you cannot get ahead at work, would like but tonight conditions and mood lifts and you can go after what you most desire with confidence.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can't see just how to bring to yourself an important desire but then later by confidential studies the pathway to gain aims is made clear to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Worldly interests seem to have too many hurdles for you to sidestep but later consider your personal goals and you find them easy to obtain.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't try to make changes in the morning and later confine yourself to those vocational interests that will put you ahead in career matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Show you are the one who can keep your given word in the morning then later you can be off to new activities that appeal to you very much.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An emotional person can throw you off balance in the morning if you permit but later you can get into plans you have made to continue a worthwhile project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A cog in the wheel of your usual job can throw you for a loop in the morning but later you can get into outside world and get much of value accomplished.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look for whatever pleasures you anticipate and cut off unnecessary expense attached there to and get into the workload awaiting you in the evening.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"I'm very upset about what you said, so I came in here to cool off!"

Peanuts

AS A WORLD FAMOUS ATTORNEY, WOULD YOU EVER BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT?

WHY NOT?

OF COURSE, YOU'D HAVE TO MOVE TO WASHINGTON.

WHERE'S THAT?

Andy Capp

THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE ARRIVED. TELL ME HASTY SAID ONE WORD WHILE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

COMPLETE SILENCE, PLEASE. I'VE BEEN LOST.

GET LOST!!

ANYTHING TO CELEBRATE?

Mutt'n'Jeff

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU TAKE A BATH, SIR! THE FAUCETS ARE MIXED! THE ONE MARKED 'HOT' IS REALLY HOT, AND THE ONE MARKED 'COLD' IS REALLY HOT!

I HOPE YOU REMEMBER!

OH, DON'T WORRY! IT DON'T MATTER ANYHOW!

WHY NOT?

WE NEVER HAVE ANY HOT WATER ANYHOW!

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- Indian
- Shoe
- Acacia
- Acacia
- Bo
- Bamboo
- Gentian
- Land (island)
- Couple
- Derivation
- Comedy
- Start of a toast
- Casualties
- Fishes
- Give as you can
- Nonmember
- Economist Alan
- GI address
- Stable
- Before
- Florida only
- City near Bismarck
- Local
- Usual
- Phad
- Where the action is
- Keep in
- discrimination
- Witchy pret
- Jag
- Sesame
- Street name
- Thin layer of coal
- it up there
- Regarding
- French river
- Midday
- Ms Home
- Ruffian
- Changeless
- Jason's ship
- Advertising light
- Surgical knives
- Ghost
- Ward
- Enigma
- Loss of memory
- Backets used by fishermen
- In a suitable way
- Persian fairs
- Verily
- Of birds
- Waste allowance
- Be brave
- Sign

Puzzle Solver:

1. Indian 2. Shoe 3. Acacia 4. Acacia 5. Bo 6. Bamboo 7. Gentian 8. Land (island) 9. Couple 10. Derivation 11. Comedy 12. Start of a toast 13. Casualties 14. Fishes 15. Give as you can 16. Nonmember 17. Economist Alan 18. GI address 19. Stable 20. Before 21. Florida only 22. City near Bismarck 23. Local 24. Usual 25. Phad 26. Where the action is 27. Keep in 28. discrimination 29. Witchy pret 30. Jag 31. Sesame 32. Street name 33. Thin layer of coal 34. it up there 35. Regarding 36. French river 37. Midday 38. Ms Home 39. Ruffian 40. Changeless 41. Jason's ship 42. Advertising light 43. Surgical knives 44. Ghost 45. Ward 46. Enigma 47. Loss of memory 48. Backets used by fishermen 49. In a suitable way 50. Persian fairs 51. Verily 52. Of birds 53. Waste allowance 54. Be brave 55. Sign

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henry Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VALAN

OBOAT

COORTH

WANEDD

WHAT THE SNOWBALL FIGHT PROVED TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRYST TIGER NEARBY TINGLE

Answer: What she served the handsome depositor with—INTEREST

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN
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QUOTED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN 05/07/1993

COMPANY NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	539,749	184.000	184.750	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	318,544	1.250	1.250	1.250
CLICO AMMAN BANK	40,108	41.000	41.000	41.000
BANK OF JORDAN	267,403	5.225	5.300	5.400
THE HOUSING BANK	714,993	2.200	2.200	2.310
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	130,347	4.000	4.500	5.350
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	117,880	6.700	6.450	6.600
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	187,566	4.700	4.670	4.650
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	107,525	6.250	6.100	6.050
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	48,503	2.350	2.450	2.500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	659,259	5.100	5.250	5.200
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,063,273	1.500	1.500	1.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,575	5.710	5.480	5.220
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	710,708	2.050	2.080	2.090
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	29,151	5.030	5.030	5.010
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,104,024	2.050	2.100	2.100
JORDAN INSURANCE	9,903	4.350	4.350	4.410
AMMAN SEAS INSURANCE	728	2.850	2.850	2.900
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	158,463	3.610	3.610	3.610
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	295,000	1.150	1.150	1.150
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	28,874	3.900	3.900	3.900
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	9,100	1.500	1.500	1.500
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	20,104	1.700	1.700	1.700
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,810	1.450	1.410	1.400
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	56,532	5.850	5.850	5.850
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	900	0.170	0.170	0.170
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	763,404	4.600	4.620	4.630
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	11,133	1.700	1.700	1.700
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	13,635	4.600	4.610	4.600
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	210,708	2.050	2.100	2.100
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,403	1.720	1.720	1.720
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	18,406	2.010	2.010	2.010
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	22,442	8.720	8.650	8.160
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	624,446	2.480	2.530	2.550
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	38,990	3.900	3.900	3.900
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	20,953	2.310	2.280	2.300
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	312,155	1.850	1.850	1.850
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,440	4.450	4.400	4.400
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	89,072	12.100	12.050	12.000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,300	8.050	8.000	8.000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	330,447	8.150	8.050	8.070
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	923,104	9.400	9.470	9.570
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	20,000	10.100	10.100	10.100
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	6,073	2.410	2.420	2.420
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,448	5.000	5.000	5.250
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	15,124	4.500	4.500	4.500
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	8,450	4.600	4.600	4.550
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	8,150	4.600	4.600	4.550
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	75,235	21.250	21.250	21.210
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	3,320	0.600	0.600	0.170
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	290,825	23.500	23.500	23.500
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	229,892	11.400	11.300	11.250
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	10,000	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	313,630	2.230	2.230	2.310
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	7,702	0.870	0.870	0.700
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	27,748	4.550	4.530	4.480
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,450	2.300	2.300	2.300
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	58,720	2.880	2.880	2.900
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	25,418	2.200	2.200	2.200
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	58,044	1.350	1.350	1.350
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	12,290	0.530	0.530	0.530
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	6,155	0.550	0.550	0.550
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	70,845	10.800	10.800	10.790
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	461,648	4.470	4.470	4.470
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	27,682	3.100	3.100	3.100
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	28,770	3.250	3.250	3.250
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	326,696	6.300	6.350	6.350
GRAND TOTAL	33,368,325			

Oil price fall depresses Arab domestic investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab domestic investment has steadily declined over the past 12 years due to a sharp fall in oil prices and the completion of infrastructure projects in the Gulf, an official report has said.

Investments fell from nearly \$116 billion in 1980 to \$92 billion in 1985 and \$84 billion in 1991, the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said Arab countries have embarked on expensive projects to boost their oil and gas output capacity to meet growing demand.

A breakdown for 1990 showed Iraq was the biggest investor in the Arab World despite its invasion of Kuwait and the 1980-1988 war with neighbouring Iran. Its domestic investment stood at \$21 billion, the report said.

Saudi Arabia came second with investment of \$20.4 billion, followed by Algeria with \$17.6 billion. Investment in the UAE stood at \$6.8 billion, in Libya at \$6.4 billion, Kuwait at \$2.5 billion and Oman at \$2.1 billion.

Oil revenues of the nine Arab

Gulf Arab states seek stronger links with Japan

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are seeking to boost ties with their main oil client Japan in a bid to get technology for expanding their industrial sector after a row with the West over proposed energy taxes.

Officials and businessmen from Japan and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed economic and investment cooperation in Tokyo last month and agreed to meet again in the Gulf.

The meeting in Tokyo last month was successful as both sides expressed a desire to boost cooperation. Ibrahim Al Mansur of the coordination section at the GCC secretariat told AFP by telephone from his Riyadh headquarters.

"We agreed that businessmen from the two sides hold a conference, probably early next year, to discuss joint industrial projects which we consider as essential for our region to obtain technology and lessen reliance on oil," he said.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have pressed the United States and the European Community (EC) to

help them obtain technology as part of their attempts to diversify sources of income, which is still heavily dependent on oil and gas.

They have held several meetings but no concrete results emerged. Some officials have deliberately holding up technology so GCC states will remain a key market for their products.

Experts expect such attempts to be complicated by a row over proposed energy taxes by the United States and the EC. The GCC has appealed to them not to go ahead with the taxes on the grounds they will depress demand for oil and cut their revenues, already sharply down because of a fall in crude prices.

At their Tokyo talks on June 18, GCC states urged the Japanese to invest in the Gulf while Tokyo asked them to ensure stable crude supplies, of which it imported 2.7 million barrels per day (b/d) from the region in 1992. The figure accounts for more than 60 per cent of Japan's total oil imports of around four million b/d and the level is expected to exceed 70 per cent by the year 2000.

"Our talks in Tokyo were part

of an intensified drive by our countries to hold a dialogue with major industrial states to increase cooperation for the benefit of the two sides," Mr. Mansur said.

"We discussed economic cooperation and joint ventures with the Japanese. We believe we can largely benefit from them as they have a pioneering experience in industrial development," he pointed out.

Japan is the top single economic partner of the GCC, with their two-way trade standing at around \$35 billion in 1992. But its investments of \$3.5 billion in the region remain low compared with U.S. and EC investments, which exceed \$10 billion each.

A GCC industry official recently said he expected Japan to make more investment in the region as business continued to pick up and regional states embarked on major projects to expand their oil and gas output capacity to meet growing world demand.

Japanese officials also expected more investment in the region after the opening of Tokyo's first Gulf investment office in Saudi Arabia this year.

"The Japanese investments in the GCC are low compared with

U.S. investments. But according to our information, the Japanese wish to make more investment in the region in the coming stage," said Abdul Rahman Al Jaafari, secretary general of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy.

Japan currently has around \$3.5 billion in investment in the Gulf, concentrated in the energy and other industrial sectors which require technology, according to official Japanese figures.

Around \$1.5 billion are based in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, mostly in the Arabian-Japan Oil Company in the Neutral Zone shared by the two countries.

Another \$1 billion are invested in Iran, \$500 million in the United Arab Emirates and the rest in other Gulf nations.

Japan is also a major economic partner of the six GCC states with two-way trade of nearly \$35 billion in 1992, mostly in Gulf oil exports.

Mr. Jaafari did not give figures on U.S. assets in the region, estimated by economists at more than \$10 billion. Some 700 U.S. companies operate in the GCC and trade between them reached around \$25 billion in 1992.

Egypt's Islamic investment house sold to Saudi

CAIRO (R) — A Saudi businessman has bought Al Sharif Group, one of Egypt's last surviving Islamic investment houses, for \$70 million Egyptian pounds (\$170 million), Cairo newspapers reported Monday.

The group's managing director Abdul Latif Al Sharif was brought from prison to

prosecutor-general Raga El Orabi's office to sign the deal Sunday with Saleh Kamel, a Saudi businessman who already runs the Dallah Al Barakat Group in Egypt.

Up to 100 investment houses sprang up in Egypt in the 1980s, drawing in billions of dollars of small investor savings which they

promised to invest along Islamic lines. But they were unregulated and the sector crashed in 1988.

Sharif, a mainly industrial group, had the reputation of being the most honest and best run group and survived the crash. But it ran into difficulties in 1991 when it stopped paying quarterly dividends of 50 million pounds

(\$15 million).

Under the terms of the deal which followed three months of hard bargaining, Mr. Kamel will receive 95 per cent of the assessed value of eight factories and Mr. Sharif will retain five per cent as an equity stake in a new company the two will set up together.

The factories, which include

one of Egypt's main plastics producers, employ about 15,000 workers in the satellite industrial cities on the edge of Cairo.

A clause in the contract also protects Mr. Kamel, who has run a dairy farm in Egypt for nearly a decade, against the agonising bureaucracy that often surrounds large Egyptian business deals.

He will only have to start paying for the purchase once tax and investment authorities have cleared up any complications arising from the deal. Payment will be in 11 instalments over a period of about three years.

The money Mr. Kamel pays will be used to reimburse depositors with the Sharif Group.

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Date: 5/7/1993	Tokyo Date: 5/7/1993
Sterling Pound	1.5075	1.5075
Deutsche Mark	1.6960	1.6998
Swiss Franc	1.5110	1.5134
French Franc	5.7383	5.7438**
Japanese Yen	108.50	109.05
European Currency Unit	1.1540	1.1524**

* USD Per Sfr.
** European Spending in ECU term, UMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.15	3.18	3.31	3.56
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.78	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	7.50	7.37	7.06	6.50
Swiss Franc	4.51	4.75	4.56	4.37
French Franc	7.37	6.93	6.62	6.15
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.21	3.12	3.12
European Currency Unit	7.62	7.37	6.93	6.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/7/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0475	1.0527
Deutsche Mark	0.4090	0.4110
Swiss Franc	0.4594	0.4617
French Franc	0.1209	0.1215
Japanese Yen	0.6389	0.6421
Dutch Guilder	0.3642	0.3660
Swedish Krona	0.0902	0.0907
Italian Lira	0.0453	0.0455
Belgian Franc	0.01988	0.01998

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/7/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8200	1.8410
Lebanese Lira	0.03675	0.04105
Saudi Riyal	0.18500	0.18585
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1881	0.1929
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.8230
UAE Dirham	0.1881	0.1929
Greek Drachma	0.2987	0.3287
Cypriot Pound	1.3550	1.3955

Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1,000 costs	1.2868/78	Canadian dollar
	1.6980/90	Deutschemark
	1.9080/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5135/45	Swiss francs
	35.91/92	Belgian francs
	5.7430/80	French francs
	1534/1537	Italian lire
	108.90/109.00	Japanese yen
	7.7380/4809	Swedish crowns
	7.2010/110	Norwegian crowns
	6.5350/450	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5070/80	
One ounce of gold	\$387.25/387.75	

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Shevardnadze narrowly escapes death

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze narrowly escaped death when a shell exploded close to his car while he was travelling through the rebel region of Abkhazia, a presidential aide said Monday.

Mr. Shevardnadze escaped unharmed from the incident, which occurred Sunday night as he was being driven to the northern town of Shroma to talk to soldiers taking part in fighting.

"When they were passing a tank on the road, a shell fired from the rebel side hit the tank and blew it up. The car was only a few metres away. He (Shevardnadze) narrowly escaped death," the aide said.

Shroma is some 15 kilometres north of the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi, which is in the hands of Georgian government forces.

"The Georgian media was not told about the blast to avoid spreading panic," the aide said.

Both Commonwealth and Georgian Television were off the air Monday morning. Officials quoted technical problems but declined to give further details.

"Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting in the Black Sea region since Georgia sent in

troops last August after Abkhazia pushed for more autonomy.

The Abkhaz parliament said in a statement that heavy fighting was still raging across the region Monday and reported losses on both sides.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Shevardnadze's top military adviser as saying government forces had pushed back an Abkhaz offensive in fierce overnight fighting.

Colonel Vladimir Chikovani said the Abkhaz side had used eight helicopters, two of which had been shot down.

TASS said Vladimir Popov, a Russian journalist working for the armed forces daily Krasnaya Zvezda, had been severely injured Sunday during shelling by government forces.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Sunday warned the two sides they must sign a peace pact soon or face the "harsh" economic pressure from Moscow.

But the Georgian Foreign Ministry shrugged off the threat Monday, saying the former Soviet republic was in any case receiving virtually nothing from Russia.

"Even if economic sanctions were to be applied, they would have no effect since we are under an economic blockade from Russia anyway," ministry aide Temuraz Gordeladze said.

Mr. Kozyrev told Commonwealth Television Sunday that the outlines of a peace deal had been sketched out at talks in Moscow brokered by the Russians.

It called for implementation of a ceasefire and a recognition of Abkhazian autonomy, backed by strong guarantees, within "the territorial integrity of Georgia".

The Abkhazian rebel leadership has also consistently called for the withdrawal of heavy Georgian military equipment from Sukhumi as well as the bulk of Georgian forces.

Tbilisi says the rebels are backed by Russian military units out of the control of Moscow's political authorities and bands of Muslim mercenaries from the Northern Caucasus.

Interfax News Agency quoted Georgian military headquarters as saying that their troops had wiped out at least 300 of the 500 Abkhazian fighters that landed at Tamsh, in the eastern Ocham-

chira region last Friday.

Abkhazian leaders in their stronghold of Gudauta meanwhile said that 350 Georgian fighters were killed or injured since Friday in the area located 60 kilometres from Sukhumi.

A spokesman for the Georgian Defence Ministry, Irakli Kerehelidze, told AFP by phone from Tbilisi that fighting was continuing Monday in the Ochamchira region but he said that only 50 Georgians were killed in the fighting.

ITAR-TASS quoted a military adviser to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, Vladimir Chikovani, as saying that "Abkhazian troops have been annihilated" in the Tamsh area.

Mr. Kerehelidze said that the rebels who launched the attack on Tamsh were wearing the Russian paratroopers' uniform, reiterating Georgia's claims that Russian troops in Abkhazia were backing the rebels.

Abkhazians claimed that they seized control of the strategic corridor between Ochamchira and Sukhumi but Georgian forces maintained that the route was under their control, Interfax said.



South African President F. W. de Klerk (left) U.S. President Bill Clinton (center) and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela wave to the

Philadelphia gathered near Independence Hall Sunday (AFP photo)

Mandela starts fund raising after award

PHILADELPHIA (Agencies) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, honoured Sunday for helping bring South Africa to the threshold of democracy, turned to fund-raising to prepare for the first all-race elections in 1994.

"We want to put an end to (apartheid) and the only way to do that is for our brothers and sisters around the world and in this country to give us the money that will enable us to win the election," Mr. Mandela told a rally of about 2,500 supporters.

"We have popularity. What we want is power in our country. We want to turn that popularity into political power."

Earlier, he and South African President F. W. de Klerk were jointly awarded the Philadelphia Liberty Medal by President Bill Clinton and Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendell at an Independence Day ceremony.

Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela shared the \$100,000 prize for their work to dismantle apartheid.

Mr. Clinton praised the efforts of Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela and pledged America's support to find a replacement quickly.

He was due to leave late Monday for the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations starting Wednesday.

Mr. Seiters, a long-time ally of Mr. Kohl, quit after coming under increasing pressure to clear up conflicting accounts of the gunbattle a week ago in which a suspected guerrilla of the left-wing Red Army Faction (RAF) and a policeman were killed.

Newspapers and politicians focused new criticism on federal prosecutor Alexander von Stahl.

"If citizens are not to lose their confidence in the organs of inner security, the prosecutor's office will have to lay its cards on the table," said Hans-Gottfried Bernhart, chairman of a parliamentary committee which launched

an inquiry into the shooting. "We will then see if the federal prosecutor can keep his job," said Mr. Bernhart, from the opposition Social Democrats, echoing similar calls from other politicians.

The liberal Sueddeutsche newspaper wrote that if the special anti-terror police squad GSG-9 had killed 40-year-old Wolfgang Grams with a head shot fired at point-blank range while he was lying helpless on the floor, more consequences would have to be taken.

"If Grams was really 'executed', one could not stop the GSG-9 being disbanded. It is unthinkable in a democracy that a police unit loses control and there must be political consequences," it added.

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Bosnian Croats lift blockade of U.N. HQ

SARAJEVO (R) — Croat forces lifted a blockade of two U.N. bases, including the Bosnian headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in the central town of Kiseljak Monday.

UNPROFOR spokesmen said the Croat Defence Force (HVO) pulled back its men after getting assurances that negotiations would continue for the release of two senior Croat officers trapped by Muslim fighters in a Canadian U.N. base at nearby Visoko.

The HVO surrounded the Kiseljak bases in retaliation for the Muslim blockade in Visoko.

The Kiseljak blockade prevented General Jean Cot, the new commander-in-chief of U.N. peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, from leaving the town Sunday to meet the outgoing U.N. commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon.

U.N. officials described the steps as "silly but serious." "This is just one of those pointless exercises which I hope won't last long," said a U.N. source in Visoko.

The blockades began during a weekend of heavy fighting, including intensive Serb shelling of the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and relentless battles for the Muslim-held towns of Maglaj and Zavidovici in central Bosnia.

Serb and Croat forces cut off the two towns from the rest of Bosnia Friday, severing a Muslim-Serb dominating land routes

north of Sarajevo. The towns are now in a Muslim enclave in which an estimated 100,000 people are trapped.

The Croats said their 11th Brigade lost 40 dead and 100 wounded in fighting around Maglaj and civilian casualties were also high. They said the brigade had taken 3,000 Muslim soldiers prisoner up until Saturday.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported hand-to-hand fighting in Maglaj and said the Serb and Croat attackers were backed by 25 tanks and 10 Howitzers.

Part of Maglaj was on fire and its authorities called on the U.N. Security Council to declare the town a "safe area" like several besieged Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

Croat radio said the Muslim-led Bosnian army had brought up reinforcements and was counter-attacking in several directions in the Maglaj area to try to regain territory lost last week.

Croat forces reported bloody fighting further south round Fojnica, west of Sarajevo. They said they had lost 40 men and the Muslim-led army had taken five villages. Shelling was also reported in the northern Muslim-held town of Gradacac and the divided southwestern city of Mostar, where Muslim radio said Croat shells killed eight people and wounded 50 and Croat troops had forced 279 Muslims from their homes.

Sarajevo was hit by more than 1,500 Serb shells Saturday. Muslim radio said further shelling on Sunday killed five people and wounded 30.

U.N. officials warned that power cuts affecting water supplies could lead to typhoid and dysentery among the capital's 380,000 inhabitants.

Fighting along Sarajevo's airport road prevented Gen. Cot, who took over as UNPROFOR commander on July 1, from making a planned visit to the city. He had been due to travel on to U.N. Headquarters at Kiseljak, but postponed the trip until Monday.

U.N. officials were negotiating with the Muslims at Visoko to lift the blockade imposed to stop Isica Rajic, Croat commander for central Bosnia, from leaving the Canadian base. The Muslims want to arrest Commander Rajic as a war criminal.

In tit-for-tat blockades, the Croats had blocked the entrances to UNPROFOR headquarters in Kiseljak with two fuel tankers and laid anti-tank mines at the gates of the Canadian base.

A U.N. source in Kiseljak said UNPROFOR had no plan to use force to break the sieges.

"This won't make us negotiate (with the Muslims) any harder or less hard," the source said of the Croat blockades. "The (Croat) guys in Visoko are safe. We won't make any attempt to let them out unless we can guarantee their safety."

Blast hits Seoul hotel where Clinton is to stay

SEOUL (R) — Three people were hurt when a boiler-room explosion Monday rocked the luxury Seoul hotel where U.S. President Bill Clinton was due to stay during a visit to South Korea this weekend, the hotel said.

Guests were evacuated from the Grand Hyatt after the early morning explosion blew out plate-glass doors at the front and rear of the hotel, on a hill south of the city centre.

Hotel spokeswoman Suh Eun-Sook said the U.S. embassy would announce later whether or not Mr. Clinton would stay at the Hyatt.

The blast from the basement opposite a Japanese restaurant ripped through the floor of the eastern end of the lobby, leaving a gaping hole.

It destroyed kiosks and left a jumble of twisted metal, shards of glass and rubble in the foyer. Hotel staff said the cause of the explosion had yet to be determined but a gas leak was probably to blame.

"The explosion was in the boiler room in the basement. At the moment we don't know what caused it," said Chris Park, director of marketing.

"The hotel is closed today, and we are taking things a day at a time. Just now we don't know whether the hotel will be ready for the president's visit this weekend."

Karabakh Armenians pound Azeri town

AGDAM, Azerbaijan (R) — Shelling from Armenian forces Monday echoed through this key western Azeri town near the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh as a stream of refugees fled east.

Local officials said shells — dropping once every seven minutes Monday — had exploded non-stop through Sunday. They said ethnic Armenian forces from Karabakh had advanced to just one kilometre south of Agdam and a few kilometres west.

"All the heights around us are in Armenian hands," Agdam's Deputy Mayor Dzafarov Dzafarov told Reuters.

"They are one kilometre down the central road south, where they captured our main defence outpost on Sunday."

Karabakh Armenians, whose enclave is formally ruled by Azerbaijan, have declared independence and extended their territory outside the enclave they claim. Several thousand people have been killed in the undeclared five-year war.

Mr. Dzafarov reported street fighting in suburbs about two kilometres from the centre. Agdam, a valley town just beyond Karabakh's mountainous eastern frontier and inside Azerbaijan proper, is seen by Azeri officials as a key defensive site.

If it fell, they fear Armenian forces would be able to advance further down the road east to the capital Baku.

Mr. Dzafarov said nine outlying villages fell into Armenian hands Sunday. Plumes of smoke from burning houses were visible on the horizon just outside Agdam Monday.

"We are still fighting but many of our soldiers have died. Many of our 18-year-olds have been killed. Yesterday, a grain depot was also hit and our television links with Moscow were destroyed by shelling," he said.

Mr. Dzafarov said at least seven people had died in Sunday's shelling. A family of four was killed when their house was hit by a grain missile and three others died when another missile slammed into their car as it fled the town.

Military backup had started to arrive, he said. But he added there was little discipline and said troops were demoralised by a year of defeats and weeks of political turmoil in Baku.

President Abulfaz Elchibey fled last month as rebels attacked on Baku. Political power has passed to Soviet-era leader Geidar Aliyev and military power to rebel leader Surat Guseinov, now also prime minister.

On Sunday, Col. Guseinov pelated on state television for Azerbaijan's demoralised and dwindling army to return to the front.

On Monday, the main road from Agdam to Baku was clogged with cars, tractors, trucks and car-drawn carts, packed with refugees fleeing Agdam. Others trudged out of town on foot.

Central Agdam, once bustling with 150,000 people, had turned into a ghost town Monday. All shops were closed and windows were boarded up in empty buildings.

Heavy attacks on Agdam in recent months have forced thousands of residents out. Three weeks ago, local officials say, the population of the town and surrounding villages was about 80,000.

Meanwhile, planned emergency talks with a peace mediator over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh have been delayed, Azerbaijan's provisional leader said Monday.

Parliament Chairman and Acting President Aliyev told a news conference that the visit by Mario Raffaelli, who is acting on behalf of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), had been postponed.

Poll: Americans support foreign intervention — by U.N. not U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans think the United States has no right to determine who holds power in another country even with problems as grave as those in Bosnia and Somalia, according to an Associated Press poll.

But 61 per cent of those polled say the United Nations has the right to appoint power in Bosnia, 10 to 31 per cent opposed. Support for a U.N. kingmaker role in Somalia is an even higher 69 per cent, to 25 per cent opposed, with the rest unsure.

"Clearly the public sees the U.N. as having global legitimacy and authority to intervene where

the U.S. lacks a legal basis to do so," said Ed Luck of the United Nations Association of the USA, a private support group.

"While many people are still critical of the U.N., a rapidly increasing majority feels that the U.N. has a right to intervene in places where the U.S. may not," Mr. Luck said.

As the United States celebrates the 217th anniversary of its declaration of independence, the poll finds Americans split in evaluating the way their country is responding to world problems as the dominant superpower in a post-cold war world.

Overall, 45 per cent are satisfied, 46 per cent dissatisfied, the rest not sure. Other responses in the poll show that the dissatisfied tend to doubt U.S. ability to play "world policeman" and discount a U.S. responsibility in the former Yugoslavia.

Fifty-two per cent of men are satisfied but 52 per cent of women are dissatisfied with current U.S. responses to world problems, according to the poll.

Women traditionally are more reluctant than men to see the country resort to force. And when the poll was taken on June 25-29, reports of U.S. military action in Somalia and Iraq were fresh in people's minds.

Over 50 blacks killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — At least seven blacks were killed in an overnight battle near Johannesburg, the culmination of a bloody weekend that claimed more than 50 black lives nationwide, police said Monday. Police recovered the seven bodies in Katlehong, a black township east of Johannesburg that has been plagued by faction fighting since the 1980s. Like previous clashes, the fighting appeared to involve township residents who back the African National Congress and Zulu migrant workers who live in hostels and support the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party. Police cordoned off two hostels after Zulus threatened Monday to attack township residents, police said. At least eight cars, including a police vehicle, were burned and several houses were set alight, according to police warrant officer Dean Peens. Police vehicles patrolling the township were shot at Monday, but none was hit, said Mr. Peens, who described the area as extremely tense.

Hijacker wounded in S. Africa assault

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police stormed a hijacked Swaziland plane at Johannesburg Airport during the night and shot a drunken hijacker trying to get from Mozambique to Australia. Two of his five hostages were also wounded. They were recovering in hospital, and the hijacker, hit in the head, was out of danger, police said Monday morning. The wounded hostages were the pilot, New Zealander James Farquarson, and passenger Glenn Dunkley, a Canadian consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, security sources said. The hijacker was a black Mozambican who climbed aboard the Royal Swazi National Airways Corporation Fokker-28 at the Mozambican capital Maputo with an AK-47 assault rifle and demanded that it fly to Australia instead of Swaziland. The pilot took off, but landed at Johannesburg, explaining to the gunman that Australia was too far away.

Clinton pledges \$1.2b in flood relief

ELDRIDGE, Iowa (AP) — President Bill Clinton, after touring Mississippi River flood-ravaged communities, pledged Sunday night to make up to \$1.2 billion in federal money available for recovery efforts. Sitting on a bale of hay at a farm near Davenport, Mr. Clinton put the overall damage estimate of the past week's floods in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin at close to \$1 billion. Mr. Clinton said there was not enough money available at this time to cover all the losses. He announced that farmers, farm businesses and individuals would get the same treatment given to victims of hurricane Andrew in Florida last year. This means businesses and individuals will be eligible to obtain from the federal government up to 50 per cent of their total losses.

Last of 'three stooges' dies

WOODLAND HILLS, California (R) — Joe Derita, the last of the Three Stooges who played the bald-headed curly in the nose-tweaking, eye-gouging comedy team, has died at the age of 83. Derita died Saturday at the Motion Picture and Television Fund Retirement Home in the Los Angeles suburb of Woodland Hills after a sudden attack of pneumonia, his stepson, Robert Benjamin, said. "The Three Stooges are all gone now," he said. "He enjoyed being Curly Joe. He was a natural comedian with great timing." Born in Philadelphia, Derita started his show business career at the age of 8 and performed in Vaudeville, in movies and on stage in Las Vegas. In 1959, Derita joined Moe Howard and Larry Fine in the bumbling "Third Banana" role that had been played by a succession of others. Derita replaced Joe Besser, who had been a bit player with Abbott and Costello, after he left the act. Besser had joined the comedy after the death of Shemp Howard in 1955. But the original Curly was his brother, Jerome Howard, who died in 1952.

Blimp crashes in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — A blimp named Bigfoot crash-landed on the roof of a seven-storey apartment house Sunday, ending up deflated and draped over the side of the building like an empty balloon tossed away by King Kong. The pilot and co-pilot survived with minor injuries. "It just deflated like a big pancake," said police officer Mike Greene, who was on patrol when he saw the airship. "It was amazing. It was just this humongous blimp, just going down." The 160-foot-long (48-metre-long) craft, a large hole visible in its outer skin, hit the apartment building's roof, scattering a handful of astonished sunbathers. One of the crewmen told police they intentionally landed on the roof of the midtown building after deciding against trying to crash-land in the Hudson River. Witnesses said the blimp approached the roof and suddenly nosed down, its gondola and engines catching on the roof's parapet.

Hong Kong talks move into 7th round

PEKING (R) — China and Britain Monday opened a seventh round of talks about the political future of Hong Kong, with negotiations overshadowed by a crucial meeting between their foreign ministers later in the week. Both the Chinese and British negotiators said they were looking forward to the meeting in Peking between British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen. But British Ambassador Sir Robin McLaren, tried to dispel hopes of a breakthrough. "There's still quite a lot of work to be done, that's quite clear," he told reporters after the first day of the two-day round ended. He declined to give details of what Mr. Hurd will try to accomplish during his visit Thursday and Friday.

Namibians break Guinness record with giant kebab

WINDHOEK (R) — A Namibian school barbecued its way into the Guinness Book of Records with a giant kebab more than a kilometre long. It took two days for 70 people to skewer the 1,009 metre (3310.37 feet) Kebab using 600 kilograms of meat, 760 onions and 180 kilograms of apricots. About 200 people cooked and turned the kebab over charcoal spread across a hockey field to challenge the previous record listed in the Guinness Book of 630 metres (2066 feet), established by the Namibian Children's Home, Windhoek, in September 1991. The meat, which rested in marinade for two days, was cut up into more manageable portions and sold to raise funds for the Eros Girls School. The marinade was cooked up from 48 litres of sour milk, five kilograms of curry powder and half a bucket of salt.

Kennedy's daughter, husband honeymoon in Ireland

DUBLIN (AP) — Mary Courtney Kennedy, daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and her new husband, Irish activist Paul Hill, made a brief stop at a music festival during their honeymoon in Ireland. "Married life is great. Things couldn't be better," the new Mrs. Hill told reporters at the concert at a seaside racetrack in Tramore, County Waterford. The two-day event featured Bob Dylan, Ray Charles and Van Morrison. Mr. Hill, one of the so-called Guildford 4 who spent 16 years in prison for the 1974 IRA bombings of pubs in Guildford and Woolwich, said: "It's great to be back in Ireland, and I am enjoying being married."

Mr. Hill and his three co-defendants were freed in 1989 after an appellate court reversed their convictions because the government admitted that police had falsified evidence. Mr. Hill is now free on bail while appealing his conviction in the murder of former British soldier Brian Shaw in Belfast in 1974. After stopping at the music festival Saturday, the couple headed to more remote County Clare in the west of Ireland. They are expected to visit Mrs. Hill's aunt, Jean Kennedy Smith, the new U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, before they return to the United States.

Woman's weight grew as interest in life withered

FLINT, Michigan (AP) — A woman who said she lost all interest in life grew to weigh a world-record 540 kilos (1,189 pounds) and was unable to walk before rescuers slid her down a hill and took her to hospital. After dying in a Michigan hospital since January, Carol Yager lost 226 kilos (500 pounds) and is looking forward to walking regularly, now that she has made it from her bed to the hallway. At her peak, Yager, 34, easily outweighed the heaviest woman listed in the Guinness Book of Records, who registered 385 kilos (850 pounds). Yager, who is to be released from hospital in the next few days, said "I felt nothing mattered. ... I didn't care about anything." She said she had become utterly dependent on her 14-year-old daughter, Heather. In January, 15 firemen rolled her in a sheet of tarpaulin and slid her down a hill to an ambulance. Yager said she is determined to continue losing weight "because I deserve it."

El Cordobes returns to the ring

SAINT-VINCENT-DE-TYROSSE, France (AP) — The legendary Spanish bull fighter El Cordobes returned to the bull-ring at the age of 57 to show off his skills, only slightly dimmed, for a charity benefit in aid of drug victims. Manuel Benitez, better known as "El Cordobes," who in the 1960s won the kind of adulation associated more often with the Beatles, was awarded both ears from one of the two bulls he took on, an accolade that marks a particularly good day in the ring. The bulls were the third and sixth in a festival staged Saturday in this southwest French town on behalf of the organisation SOS Drogue International. El Cordobes received his adversaries in the style to which thousands of aficionados became accustomed during his heyday, smiling as he performed his turns, and finally killing the animals cleanly. The audience, for whom the rare guest appearance was the highlight of the evening, applauded warmly. Benitez, who said earlier that he had turned down numerous offers to return to the ring that he last saw in 1985, hinted that he might resume his bull fighting career on a regular basis, though there was no question of needing the money such a decision would undoubtedly bring.

Sampras surges off criticism

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Pete Sampras, the 21-year-old American, is to fly home to Florida after a boring Wimbledon final.

The 21-year-old American beat compatriot Jim Courier in four sets in Sunday's final, but the match failed to silence critics who felt his victory was not a triumph for those who enjoy charismatic performers.

"The oracle says Pete Sampras is dull and boring, but it just goes in one ear and out the other," the world number one responded.

"Right now it doesn't bother me at all. If people want to try and put me down, let them."

Pocketing a winner's cheque for 305,000 pounds sterling (\$461,300) was the perfect Sampras riposte to those people whom he felt over-reacted to an on-court outburst after his fourth round match against Briton Andrew Foster.

"I think it was blown out of proportion," said Sampras, booed off court after shouting at noisy spectators.

"I know when I show emotion it kind of surprises people, but it kind of builds up inside you. I just didn't feel like playing another set."

The world number one, who would have been knocked off his perch by Courier had he lost the final, also revealed the personal cost of staying at the forefront of the game.

The pair, only a year apart in age, live nearby in Florida and have been good friends since their teenage years, but Sampras now says their professional rivalry has come between them.

"Jim and I are nothing like as close as we were three years ago," he admitted. "It's tough to have a strong relationship when you're trying to beat each other the whole time. You don't see many people in the top 10 making friends with each other."

Sampras now plans to take three weeks off sharpening his gold game amongst other laid-back priorities before turning his attention towards the U.S. hard-court season.

It will give him time to shake off any lingering after-effects, particularly with his shoulder, from a Wimbledon which will be remembered as a tournament where the computer ruled supreme.

Sampras, women's queen Steffi Graf and both the men's and women's doubles champions all justified their seeding, a rare event at a Grand Slam event. It last occurred at Wimbledon in 1984.

The statistic hides plenty of factors — notably Jana Novotna's collapse from 4-1 up in the final set of the women's final — but even grasscourt connoisseurs were forced to admit the 1993 championships were short on vintage moments.

Sampras was often smoothly efficient, yet paled in comparison with last year's champion Andre Agassi, whom he beat in a five-set quarter-final, in the popularity stakes.

The mystery of Agassi's chest hair won him several new admirers, while Sampras failed to earn a single vote in a poll of 1,000 women asked with whom they would like to share their strawberries and cream.



Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras and his girlfriend Delina Mulcahy arrive at London's Savoy Hotel for the traditional champions' dinner (AFP photo)

Luckily for him, the world rankings are based on more prosaic information and he is certain to be among the favourites of the U.S. Open in New York later this year.

Graf should be equally tipped among the women on the evidence of Wimbledon's first completely dry fortnight since 1976.

But the absence of Monica Seles, still a virtual recluse after being stabbed by a crazed Graf fan in Hamburg in April, continues to cast a shadow on the game.

Wimbledon '93 proved yet again that modern tennis does not possess a surfeit of stars.

18th title keeps Navratilova going

Martina Navratilova moved within striking distance of Billie Jean King's record of 20 Wimbledon titles when she won the mixed doubles crown with Australia's Mark Woodforde Sunday.

The triumph was some consolation for Navratilova's failure to claim a tenth singles crown, and increases the likelihood of her coming back to try again next year at the age of 37.

"We have to defend," Navratilova said after the 6-4, 6-3 win over the Dutch pair Tom Nijssen and Manon Bollegraf.

"I asked Mark if he would play with me at the U.S. Open, so we'll play the Open. I just hope I'll be playing next year. If I can walk I'll be here defending."

"I guess I'm within striking distance now," she said. "But I haven't won anything were for a while, anything since the singles (in 1990). So it was nice to win one."

Asked about the chances of overtaking King, who now works with her, she said: "It's plausible but it's still a long way away. If I go at this pace, one title in every three years, I'll be 50 before I break it."

Tearful Novotna sees Wimbledon dream slip away

It was Steffi Graf who lifted the famous silver salver, but the abiding image of the 100th Wimbledon women's singles final will always be Jana Novotna weeping on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent.

Princess Diana at Wimbledon: Princess Diana, an avid tennis fan, clapped enthusiastically Sunday as American Pete Sampras won the Wimbledon men's singles final. "Maybe she has a crush on me," the new champion joked.

Diana watched the match with her mother, Frances Shand-Kydd, and several cousins of her mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II — Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy. Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent.

It was Diana's first visit to Wimbledon this year and she sat on the edge of her seat in the tense final moments before Sampras defeated fellow American Jim Courier.

When Sampras raised his trophy in triumph, the princess gave him a standing ovation. Asked about Diana's enthusiasm, Sampras smiled broadly and made the joke about a possible royal crush.

Say it with flowers: Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf has been bothered by a stalker who follows her around and makes comments from the side of the court.

Now she has an admirer who leaves flowers on her doorstep. A bouquet was discovered by a security guard at the house where she has been staying during the Wimbledon fortnight.

But police discounted a story in one of the tabloid newspapers that the man who left the flowers was discovered hiding in a tree overlooking the garden.

"A bunch of flowers were left on the doorstep," said a spokesman for Scotland Yard. "There was no breach of security and no suggestion that this was anything other than an admirer leaving a bunch of flowers."

Germany clinch European basketball title

MUNICH (AP) — Christian Welp's three-point play with 3.9 seconds left gave Germany a stunning 71-70 victory over Russia and its first European Basketball Championship title Sunday.

Welp drove inside and dunked, drawing a foul from Mikhail Mikhaliov.

With 10,000 fans in Munich's Olympic Hall on their feet, the 2.12-metre (7-foot-0) centre's hand never trembled and he made the shot.

"I told my players to go for a two-point effort in that last attack, and we were lucky that Welp was well posted and that the ball came to him," said Germany's Yugoslav-born coach Svetislav Pesic.

"We deserved to win and we beat a very talented team that has a big future ahead of it," said Pesic, who has already signed to coach the Alba Berlin Club next season and is likely to leave the post of German coach.

Germany had never finished better than fifth at the European championship, and that was in 1985, also at home.

Its biggest international success was the seventh place at last year's Olympics in Barcelona. But that was with Detlef Schrempf, the power forward of the Indiana Pacers in the NBA, who declined to play here.

"I hope this victory means a new beginning for German basketball," Pesic said.

Russia was making its first appearance as a separate nation and failed to clinch the title that the old Soviet Union had won a record 14 times.

European basketball champions

1935-Latvia
1937-Lithuania
1939-Lithuania
1946-Czechoslovakia
1947-Soviet Union
1949-Egypt
1951-Soviet Union
1953-Soviet Union
1955-Hungary
1957-Soviet Union
1959-Soviet Union
1961-Soviet Union
1963-Soviet Union
1965-Soviet Union
1967-Soviet Union
1969-Soviet Union
1971-Soviet Union
1973-Yugoslavia
1975-Yugoslavia
1977-Yugoslavia
1979-Soviet Union
1981-Soviet Union
1983-Italy
1985-Soviet Union
1987-Greece
1989-Yugoslavia
1991-Yugoslavia
1993-Germany

Zambia triumphs in World Cup qualifier

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Two months after the core of the team was killed in a plane crash, a Zambian squad wearing black armbands rallied to beat Morocco 2-1 and move to the top of Group B in the second round of African World Cup qualifying.

The emotional game played before 50,000 at Independence Football Stadium began with a moment of silence for the 18 players killed in an April 28 air crash. The players were buried just outside the stadium.

It was Zambia's first international game since the core of the team and 12 others were killed when their plane plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Gabon.

Zambian president Frederick Chiluba and his wife, Verah, wiped tears from their eyes as Zambia's Johnson Bwalya, who plays for the Swiss first-division club Biele FC, scored the game winner with 13 minutes remaining.

Zambia's new line-up was fresh from intensive training in Denmark where they played against eight local clubs.

Rosta Waransi, girlfriend of Samuel Chomba who died in the crash, wept as she told a reporter, "I'm still grieving for him. I can't believe he's actually dead. But I'm here to support his team. They have to win."

The victory gave Zambia two points and a plus-1 goal differential, putting it ahead of Morocco (1-0-1) and Senegal (0-0-1).

Only the winners from the three second-round groups advance to the 1994 World Cup finals.

Zambia is scheduled to play South Africa July 11 and Zimbabwe July 16 for Africa Cup of Nations qualifying.

Zambia has three games remaining. One in Senegal — the one they were heading to play last time when the plane crashed, at home against Senegal Sept. 26 and at Morocco Oct. 10.

Copa America

Argentina win second straight title

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP) — Two second half goals by Gabriel Batistuta led Argentina to a 2-0 victory over Mexico and its second straight America Soccer Cup Sunday.

Batistuta, the top scorer in 1991 America Cup with six goals, had scored only once in five games, but found his old form and put Argentina ahead in the 63rd minute.

Mexico tied the game two minutes later when Benjamin Galindo converted a penalty kick, but Batistuta scored the winner in the 74th after dribbling a defender inside the penalty area.

"We suffered a lot to achieve this," Argentine coach Alfio Basile said. "We came here in very bad physical shape."

Argentina moved past the first round with only one victory and two ties, and then eliminated Brazil and Colombia on penalty kicks, after drawing both games.

It never found its form of 1991, when it won six games and tied a seventh.

While not performing well, however, Argentina increased to 31 games its unbeaten streak started more than two years ago, when Basile took over.

Argentina's goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea led his team to the final, stopping penalty kick against Brazil and against Colombia.

"This is a great satisfaction to me," Goycochea said. "But I resent the fact that the press only notices me when I stop penalties. Nobody seems to notice that I was the goalkeeper in most of the games during our streak."

Second place was also an achievement for Mexico, which participated in this tournament for the first time, on a special invitation.

Mexico surprised its southern neighbours with an aggressive style that caused havoc with offensive incursions by its midfielders and defenders, who often faced goalkeepers one-on-one.

Mexico reached the final after beating Peru 4-2 in the quarter-finals and Ecuador 2-0 in the semifinals.

Colombia edged Ecuador 1-0 Saturday night in a consolation match and took third place. Adolfo Valencia scored the only goal.

Home team Ecuador, which won its first four games before losing to Mexico in the semifinals, finished fourth. It was its best placing ever in the tournament.

The United States, another first-time entrant, didn't make it past the first round.

Mexicans celebrate tournament loss

Number 2 was good enough for tens of thousands of dancing, chanting, horn-blowing soccer fans who celebrated despite Mexico's loss to Argentina in the America Cup Soccer Championship.

"Even though we didn't win, the team is really great," shouted Alejandra Velazquez, who waved a large Mexican flag from the window of a horn-blowing car weaving up Mexico's famed boulevard, the Paseo de la Reforma.

The celebration along 2.5 kilometres (a mile and a half) of the 12-lane street resembled a

respectability after years of mediocre teams and a bureaucratic blunder that disqualified the team from a chance at the 1990 World Cup.

U.S. Super Bowl victory parade without the violence — at least during the first four hours.

The fans appeared to be celebrating Mexico's return to soccer

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Carlos Munoz of Ecuador (left) fights to keep the ball from Carlos Valderrama of Colombia in the third place game of the Copa America (AFP photo)

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Iraq ready to make deal on U.N. oil sale plan — MEES

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Increasingly hard-pressed after three years of U.N. sanctions, Iraq is willing to accept most of the stringent United Nations conditions for a limited resumption of its oil exports, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

But that may not be enough to secure the approval of the U.S. and British governments, both still deeply hostile to the Iraqi regime, the oil industry newsletter stressed.

Baghdad's decision to go ahead with talks with U.N. officials in New York July 7 "is a sign of the importance the Iraqi government attaches to the negotiations it intends to hold with the U.N. on the issues at dispute between the two sides," the weekly newsletter said.

The Iraqis now seem to believe that U.N. Security Council resolutions 706 and 712, which allow for the oil sale and which Baghdad has repeatedly said violated its sovereignty, "offer the best hope of easing sanctions and reopening contacts which have been cut off for the last three years," MEES said.

It noted that the July 7 meeting will not necessarily lead to an agreement, but "does provide a better chance than before of resolving Iraq's differences," with the United Nations.

Until now, Iraq had doggedly rejected the terms of the offer made by the U.N. Security Council in September 1991 for the sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion over six months to purchase food, medicine and other humanitarian goods to alleviate the trade embargo im-

posed on Baghdad after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that Iraq has in recent days said it will accept the main conditions.

These include U.N. monitoring of the oil sales, the quantity of oil to be exported, depositing the proceeds in a U.N.-controlled escrow account and deducting 30 per cent of them for war reparations, with other funds going to the United Nations to cover the cost of its operations in Iraq. These total around \$800 million so far.

In return, the Iraqis want some modifications to resolutions 706 and 712, MEES said, these include:

— Allowing exports to be shipped through the Mina Al Bakr terminal in the northern Gulf as well as through pipelines to Turkey, which the United Nations has insisted be the only export outlet.

— Allowing Baghdad to produce more than the oil specified to pay for production costs and the reconstruction of Iraq's oil industry badly damaged in the 1991 Gulf war.

— Allowing Baghdad to use the estimated \$4 to \$6 billion in frozen Iraqi assets abroad to buy humanitarian supplies once oil exports resume.

Baghdad's unexpected turnaround clearly stems from the accelerating deterioration in Iraq's economy and the growing hardship sanctions are causing to Iraq's 18 million people.

Moves by the United Nations and some countries to use frozen Iraqi assets are cutting off a key source of hard currency for the beleaguered regime.

The newsletter noted that Baghdad has discovered that complying with Security Coun-

cil Resolution 687, which demands the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction before sanctions can be lifted, "does not necessarily lead to immediate results."

An oil sale agreement will depend on the five permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the United States and Britain.

"It remains to be seen whether, and to what extent, there is a similar change of position on the part of the five... regarding Iraq's demands for modifications," MEES noted.

The Clinton administration, like its predecessor, has insisted there can be no changes at all in those resolutions.

Also, Iraq is refusing to allow U.N. weapons inspectors to install surveillance cameras at two missile test sites, a confrontation that could antagonise the United Nations.

But MEES stressed that "other forces may also have been at work."

It said several countries, including Russia, France and Egypt, are owed billions of dollars by Iraq and would like to be paid.

Also, several countries and oil companies are eager for sanctions to be lifted so they can sign exploration and development contracts which Baghdad has been dangling before them for some time.

The newsletter noted too that the U.N. compensation fund, which is processing around one million applications for war reparations, is expected to announce "awards totalling some \$4 billion to be made beginning next year."

A destitute Iraq would not be able to pay unless its oil exports were resumed.

Accused in 'Bush plot' says he was only smuggling

KUWAIT (Agency) — An Iraqi linked by Kuwait to Iraqi intelligence denied Monday involvement in an alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

"I am only a smuggler," Salem Nasser Al Shammari, 34, told Kuwait's security court.

When one of the presiding judges said Mr. Shammari looked familiar, the defendant said he had been jailed 15 times in Kuwait for smuggling and had previously appeared before him.

Mr. Shammari was testifying on the fifth day of the trial of 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis charged with involvement in an alleged plot to blow up Mr. Bush during his April 14-16 visit to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti police have said Mr. Shammari was directly connected to Iraqi intelligence. But he said he had come to Kuwait with the others to smuggle alcohol and ferry in illegal immigrants.

Police say a car loaded with about 80 kilograms of explosives was found in the group's possession when members were arrested around the time of Mr. Bush's visit.

Ten of the 14 are accused of plotting to kill Mr. Bush and two are charged with being accomplices. Both crimes are punishable by death. A further two are accused of illegally procuring liquor discovered with the explosives.

Two admit involvement in the plot. The remainder deny it. Iraq has denied any role in the alleged plot, but the United States launched a missile attack on Baghdad last week after it said it found compelling evidence of Iraqi involvement.

Before the court reconvened Monday, one of the judges refused suggestions by human rights groups that the accused were unlikely to get a fair trial in Kuwait.

The judge, Mohammad Al Mutairi, rejected a report by the London-based Amnesty International that the U.S. missile strike against Baghdad had undermined the defendants' presumption of innocence.

"We as a court have nothing to do with what goes on between Iraq and America," Mr. Mutairi told reporters. "The court has nothing to do with politics or with the U.S. strike against Iraq."

Mr. Mutairi said such a trial in many other countries would have been held "behind closed doors." The fact that the hearings have remained public proved Kuwait wanted to give the defendants a fair trial, he asserted.

Amnesty International called for a new trial "in which the right of access to defence counsel at all stages of the proceedings, and the full right of appeal, are guaranteed."

Amnesty also called on the Kuwaiti authorities to guarantee that none of the 14 accused would be sentenced to death, adding that the defendants had not been allowed access to a lawyer throughout their detention.

But two Kuwaiti lawyers, Najib Al Wakiani and Mohammad Al Yassin, on Saturday dismissed the Amnesty charges, saying the court had arranged for them to meet the defendants.

Mr. Yassin said the charges were "imprecise."

Twelve of the defendants could be hanged if convicted. The other two, both Kuwaitis charged with hiding the other defendants, could be sentenced to five years in jail.

Denktash to quit as negotiator

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said Monday he had decided to quit as negotiator in U.N.-sponsored talks on the future of the divided island.

He told reporters he took the decision because U.N. special envoy Gustav Feissel had misrepresented his position to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and because his own government had given him no leeway to negotiate.

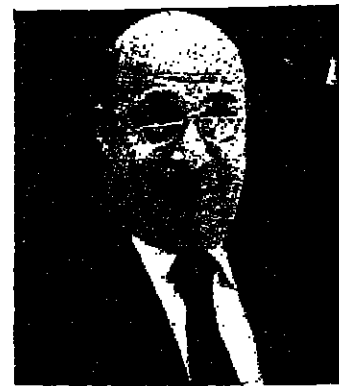
Dr. Ghali criticised Mr. Denktaş Sunday for being reluctant to accept a package of confidence building measures.

But Mr. Denktaş said the criticism was the result of a misunderstanding. "It is not the secretary-general's fault. It is the mistake of his officials who have been reporting to him. Clearly it is Feissel's fault," he said.

"He (Feissel) failed to convey appropriately what we told him here... it was presented as if we had agreed here and changed heart when there (in New York)." Mr. Denktaş said in June he would not accept the confidence building measures and refused to attend a round of talks in New York scheduled for June 14. Dr. Ghali then cancelled the talks.

The Turkish-Cypriot leader, president of the largely unrecognised Turkish republic of north Cyprus, also spelt out his differences with the government of Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu over the handling of the talks.

"All my possibilities of manoeuvring have been removed by the government and the assembly which have taken a decision destroying altogether the federation talks," Mr. Denktaş said.



Rauf Denktaş

"I, therefore have reached a point where I can no longer continue as negotiator. I want the government to appoint a new negotiator."

Mr. Denktaş had been at odds with Eroglu since March and has accused him of contradicting his negotiating position while Denktaş was at U.N.-sponsored talks in New York.

The spokesman for the Cypriot government, Yiannakis Cassoulides, said the government would react after the U.N. secretary-general confirmed Denktaş's decision.

But he added: "An action by Mr. Denktaş to withdraw would create enormous complications and problems to the procedure and would disorient them away from the substance of the issue."

One Turkish-Cypriot party said there should now be fresh parliamentary elections in northern Cyprus.

"This move (Denktaş's resignation) has added a new need for early elections. A new parliament can truly reflect the free will of the people," Mustafa Akinci, chairman of the Social Democrat

Communal Liberation Party (TKP), told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The TKP and the left-wing opposition Republican Turkish Party boycotted the parliament after 1990 elections.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

In a report to the Security Council, obtained by Reuters on Sunday, Dr. Ghali made a strong plea on behalf of his package of 15 measures to promote ties between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities.

He warned that if the package was rejected "the effort to seek an overall settlement of the Cyprus problem will suffer a major setback."

The confidence-building measures include placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosia under U.N. administration and reopening Nicosia airport, also under U.N. control.

"I am disappointed that despite the assurances... Mr. Denktaş did not promote the acceptance of the package during his consultations in Nicosia and Ankara," Dr. Ghali said. "I also deeply regret that Mr. Denktaş failed to honour the agreement of June 1 to resume the joint meeting on June 14."

Mr. Denktaş, a British-trained barrister and a leader of the Turkish community in Cyprus since the late 1950s, started to represent his community in U.N.-sponsored talks in the 1960s.

He continued talks with newly elected President Glafcos Clerides, a long-time friend and a fellow barrister.

PLO leadership rejects U.S. paper

(Continued from page 1)

means to achieve their goals, and the "U.S. believes in the need to end Israel's occupation which can be achieved through meaningful negotiations..."

One point concerning Jerusalem that was mentioned in the letter of assurances and repeated in the U.S. document was that East Jerusalem Palestinians would vote in the elections for a Palestinian authority.

"Our clear position is that we will reject any agreement if it excludes Jerusalem from the jurisdiction of the interim Palestinian self-government," said another PLO official.

Palestinians say that Israeli siege imposed on East Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza Strip since late March is a unilateral action that preempts the outcome of the negotiations and the status of Jerusalem. This, they said, is an unacceptable flagrant violation of the basis of the peace process.

The document also offered Palestinians purely administrative jurisdiction in the occupied territories during the interim period, and powers transferred to Palestinians, agreed in negotiations, would be limited to people and not to land. It also divides the occupied territories into cantons, and Israelis (settlers) living in the occupied territories would be excluded from the Palestinian interim self-government responsibilities. PLO officials said.

(Continued from page 1)

During his talks here, he said, Jordanian leaders told him that "while external assistance will be well received," the focus of the Kingdom is towards self-reliance as the ultimate means to address its economic problems.

Mr. Marin, who leaves for Egypt Wednesday, said his talks in Cairo would include a review of the "problems of the region, especially (Egypt's) opinion about how to solve the problem of (Muslim) fundamentalism... which is threatening stability."

He added, however, that "poverty was the root cause of the problem" and that people's frustration over the unresolved political problems, mainly the Palestinian problem, was also another factor that adds to fears of instability in the Middle East.

Asked whether the EC was planning a strategy to counter "Islamic fundamentalism," Mr. Marin said the issue was "internal problem" for the concerned countries, but that the community was generally concerned over "stability not only in the Mashrek but also in the Maghreb."

Issues discussed during the talks, including the meeting Mr. Marin held with Mr. Majali, included Jordanian-EC relations as well as the Kingdom's programmes to tackle problems like water shortage and cope with the influx of the hundreds of thousands of Jordanian expatriates who were forced to return home in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Also reviewed was Jordan's economic restructuring programme and the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom.

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Top EC official pledges continued role

(Continued from page 1)

During his talks here, he said, Jordanian leaders told him that "while external assistance will be well received," the focus of the Kingdom is towards self-reliance as the ultimate means to address its economic problems.

Mr. Marin, who leaves for Egypt Wednesday, said his talks in Cairo would include a review of the "problems of the region, especially (Egypt's) opinion about how to solve the problem of (Muslim) fundamentalism... which is threatening stability."

He added, however, that "poverty was the root cause of the problem" and that people's frustration over the unresolved political problems, mainly the Palestinian problem, was also another factor that adds to fears of instability in the Middle East.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

China supports test ban

BEIJING (AFP) — China, in its first reaction to President Bill Clinton's extension of a U.S. nuclear test ban, reiterated Monday its support for the prohibition of all such tests. "China has always stood for a complete prohibition of nuclear tests within the framework of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons," the official Xinhua news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. "China has long exercised much restraint in nuclear testing, and the number of its nuclear tests has been the smallest among the five nuclear states," the spokesman said.

France to leave troops in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — France will leave "several dozen" troops in Cambodia after the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) mission ends in August-September, French Defence Minister Francois Leotard said Monday. Speaking to journalists after an hour-and-a-half-long meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Leotard said the troops would "contribute to" the rebuilding of a Cambodian army under a legitimate government. He praised the role of the French UNTAC contingent of 1,500 men who have been here for more than a year. "Relations between France and Cambodia have always been very close," Leotard said, indicating that a "document" on military cooperation between the two countries could be signed during his stay here.

Massive protest in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Thousands of youths protesting against scrapping of Nigeria's presidential election closed major roads in Lagos and police fired tear gas to disperse them in the city centre. Residents said guns were fired in the air but it was not known if there had been any casualties. Many shops were

closed and a police helicopter flew over the protesters, estimated to number several thousand in some areas of the sprawling city of more than six million people. The protest was the most serious in Lagos against the annulment of elections which millionaire businessman Moshood Abiola claimed to have won, and the biggest protest in the city since May 1992 riots over fuel shortages.

Miyazawa rebuffed in campaign

TOKYO (AFP) — Ruling party candidates are shunning the support of Japanese Premier Kiichi Miyazawa in election campaigns. The Asahi Shinbun reported Monday, underlining his falling popularity. An official of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) election headquarters conceded the absence of Mr. Miyazawa's canvassing plans after this week's Group of Seven (G-7) summit, but attributed the vacancy to "adjustment needs." The embarrassing revelation came two days before Mr. Miyazawa is to host the summit of seven leading industrialised countries. Late last month, LDP leaders agreed to send popular figures on a stump tour nationwide, including former Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara and former Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

28 killed in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP) — In two days of fighting between soldiers and guerrillas in Jammu-Kashmir state, 28 people have been killed, news agencies reported Monday. Most of the fatalities were rebels, including a commander of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, one of the top rebel groups in the state. Press Trust of India reported. The death toll from the gunfights around the state on Sunday and Monday was the highest this month, and it occurred during a resurgence of fighting in recent weeks. In Baramulla district near the Pakistani border, Indian troops shot and killed 11 militants in two encounters on Monday, an official spokesman told PTI and United News of India.

American paper defines 'goal of negotiations, issues and mechanisms

Following is the text of an American document presented to Israeli and Palestinian negotiators during the 10th round of talks which ended last week. The paper was aimed at bridging the gap between Israel and the Palestinians in the negotiations, U.S. officials say.

THE PALESTINIAN and Israeli sides reaffirm their commitment to the peace process launched at Madrid. They seek to negotiate their differences and reach a peaceful and just future in which Israel and Palestinians will live side by side, in peace, for generations to come. Toward this end, the two sides will negotiate a Declaration of Principles to guide the negotiations on interim self-government arrangements. The following principles and/or areas of emerging agreement could be included in the completed Declaration of Principles, subject to agreement on the full declaration.

The goal of the negotiations

The two sides agree that the objective of the peace process is to reach a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement achieved through direct negotiations based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides will be conducted, per the Madrid letter of invitation, in two

phases: The first phase of the negotiations is directed towards reaching agreement on Palestinian interim self-government arrangements for a period of five years; and the second phase of the negotiations, beginning the third year of the period of interim self-government arrangements, will be directed towards reaching agreement on permanent status. The two sides concur that on permanent status will constitute the implementation of resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

The two sides agree that the negotiating process is one and that its two phases are interlocked. They further agree that neither the negotiations nor the agreements reached for the interim period nor anything done in the interim period will be deemed to preempt or prejudice the outcome of permanent status negotiations. Furthermore, both sides will make their best efforts to avoid actions during the interim period that undermine the environment for the negotiations.

The two sides agree that all options for permanent status within the framework of the agreed basis of the negotiations — United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 — will remain open. Once negotiations on permanent status begin, each side can raise whatever issue it wants, including the question of Jerusalem.

The nature of the Palestinian elected authority

The two sides agree that a Palestinian elected interim self-government authority (whose name will be agreed) will be established through fair, free, general and direct elections. These elections will be held under agreed supervision and with international observers and monitors. Negotiations will take place concerning the modalities and timetable for elections. Once elections modalities are agreed upon by the two sides, East Jerusalem Palestinians will vote in the elections.

The Palestinian elected authority will have the necessary powers and responsibilities to carry out the authorities transferred to it under the agreement. It will assume executive authority. It

will have legislative authority in the areas of responsibility transferred to it, subject to the agreement to be negotiated. There will be independent judicial organs. Legislation in force will be reviewed as appropriate.

The two sides agree that one of the key goals of the interim period is the transfer of authority to Palestinians. Powers and responsibilities of the Israeli civilian administration will be transferred to the Palestinians as agreed. This process will bring about a fundamental change in the existing situation on the ground and in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians. An important outcome of this phase will be the empowerment of Palestinians through the establishment of interim self-government arrangements which will give the Palestinians real control over decisions that affect their lives and fate. It should also put an end to the confrontation between Israel and Palestinians and create a new relationship between them of mutual respect, tolerance, peace and reconciliation, in which both sides eschew violence.

Security

The Israeli and Palestinian sides agree that the security of

both sides must be respected and enhanced as a result of the negotiating process. The objective of security arrangements during the interim period is to respond to mutual needs, as well as to create the conditions for real peace. Recognising Israel's responsibility for its nationals and for overall security of the territories (Hague Regulations of 1907), and recognising the interim self-government's responsibility concerning Palestinians during the interim period per the agreement to be negotiated, there will be arrangements and mechanisms, particularly related to security, such as police functions, that will enhance mutual security and address the needs of both sides.

Jurisdiction

The two sides agree that discussion of the issue of jurisdiction as it relates to the interim period starts from the premise that issues related to permanent status are outside the scope of the interim status negotiations. Thus, the inclusion or exclusion of specific spheres of authority, geographic areas, or categories of persons within the jurisdiction of the interim self-government will not prejudice the positions or claims of either party and will not consti-

tute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying any party's claim to territorial sovereignty in the permanent status negotiations. As such, the issue of jurisdiction over the territories will only be resolved as an outcome of the permanent status negotiations.

For the interim period, authority will be appropriate exercise its authority, i.e. jurisdiction, in the territories, to the extent necessary to fulfill its responsibilities and as agreed between the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

Land

The two sides have agreed that the territories are viewed as a single territorial unit. They agree that issues related to sovereignty will be negotiated during talks on permanent status and that negotiations on the land issue during the interim period will take place without prejudice to territorial integrity; that is the territories will be treated as a whole even while the two sides negotiate the difficult issues of land ownership, registration, planning, zoning, usage and management.

Cooperation and coordination

The two sides will conclude

agreements and establish agreed arrangements for cooperation and coordination in specific areas of mutual and common concern. These areas of cooperation and coordination will take into account the mutual needs of both sides. The two